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Civil service told to hire more non-Malays

KUALA LUMPUR: The perception of having too many Malays in the government sector has reached the eyes and ears of parliamentarians.

"We are aware that people on the ground may think that there is racial discrimination when it comes to employment in the civil service.

"But the Public Service Department (PSD) has given its assurance that there is no such thing," said the Parliamentary Select Committee on Integrity chairman Datuk Dr Wan Hashim Wan Teh yesterday.

He said he was told by the PSD that the largest ethnic group they had to turn away each year was the Malays.

"Still, they have to portray that multi-ethnic image reflecting the make-up of the country.

"We have given our recommendations for proactive steps to take in more non-Malays.

"We want to see more non-Malays and we want them to be working at the front lines of the civil service," he said.

He also noted that the committee had suggested police personnel be given opportunities to further their studies and take on supplementary courses.

"The training period for an

army personnel is two years. After that, officers go on to Sandhurst or Portsmouth for additional training.

"Police officers should be encouraged to obtain Master's degrees or even take short courses relevant to their work to combat crime more efficiently."

Wan Hashim said this after their parliamentary meeting to wrap up their findings and issues since the committee was set up two years ago.

What was discussed would then be made into a report to be tabled for debate the next time parliament convenes.

In the three-hour meeting attended by only slightly more than two thirds of the 11-member committee, issues ranging from corruption, immigration and MP attendance in parliament were raised.

"People were quite dissatisfied when they watched television and saw so many empty seats.

"That reflects quite badly on the institution.

"It would also be nice if each minister could spare a few hours every week to participate in debates and respond to questions instead of just giving a written reply to their parliamentary secretaries to be read out," he said, refusing to name names.