

GOVERNMENT JOBS

Meritocracy is of prime importance

I REFER to the report headlined "Non-Malay interest in govt jobs up" (NST, Dec 18), which stated that there was an increase of about 10 per cent in non-Malays applying to join the civil service.

The report also cites the most recent figures published by the Public Service Commission (PSC) that of the more than one million applications received, almost 80 per cent were from Malays while only about two per cent were from Chinese and just over three per cent from Indians.

The PSC study into the reasons behind the lukewarm reception to government posts among non-Malays is, therefore, timely and necessary.

At the same time, the PSC should engage with various stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations and community leaders, to get input on the matter.

In this respect, it was of considerable interest to me as the re-

port. also mentioned that the PSC chairman was introduced to the PSC Football Club (SPA Putrajaya FC), which will make its debut in the Premier League this year after winning the FAM League.

From the late 1950s through the mid-1970s, when I worked in one of the statutory bodies under the purview of a government ministry, I recall the great interest and importance given to various sporting activities.

We had sports teams comprising the various communities in our country, reflecting, in fact, the multicultural composition of the various bodies, institutions and departments under the government, including the police and the armed forces.

Not only did we regularly compete with each other in various tournaments but also, on occasion, we toured other states for inter-organisational games.

We made enduring friendships,

on and off the field, socialised with each other within our workplaces and outside with those with whom we competed — some even leading to cross-community matrimony.

The point I wish to make here is that not only were our teams made up of sportsmen and women from the various communities, but they were selected to represent their respective teams because they were the best.

There was never talk of one community or the other because we were all there together — from institutional and departmental heads to those who did the "leg-work" — in our various workplaces, with none in any significant way "dominating" the other in numbers or for any other reason.

Among the eight values of our 1Malaysia concept, eloquently enunciated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, are two outstanding qualities which bear significance in the context of this

matter — "culture of excellence" and "meritocracy".

Whatever might be the reasons identified through the PSC's efforts for the lack of representation by certain communities in the civil service, what's needed is and I quote Najib: "... the one overarching value that will ensure that Malaysia is on the right trajectory is to make sure that we are imbued with the culture of excellence".

Indeed, unless and until meritocracy is of prime importance in everything, we cannot expect to achieve the excellence that we so vitally need to move our nation and our people forward to the next level.

And that is undoubtedly a critical consideration to encourage more and better cross-community applications and appointments to our various departments, institutions and services.

Rueben Dudley, Petaling Jaya

LIGA SUPER



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LIGA SUPER
MALAYSIA

>> Jadual perlawanan

>> **Esok**

Negeri Sembilan lwn Terengganu

(Std Paroi, 8.45 mlm)

Felda United lwn Pahang

(Std MB Petaling Jaya, 4.45 ptg)

Johor Darul Takzim FC lwn Perak

(Std Larkin, 8.45 mlm)

LIGA PERDANA



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LIGA PREMIER
MALAYSIA

>> Jadual perlawanan

>> **Esok**

Sarawak lwn UiTM

(Std Negeri, 8.15 mlm)

Kedah lwn KL Pos

(Std Darul Aman, 8.45 mlm)

Kuala Lumpur lwn PDRM

(Std Bola Sepak KL, Cheras, 4.45 ptg)

NS Betaria lwn Johor

(Std Hang Tuah, 4.45 ptg)

Sime Darby lwn Sabah

(Std MP Selayang, 4.45 ptg)

SPA Putrajaya FC lwn Perlis

(Std Hang Jebat, 4.45 ptg)