

## KERATAN AKHBAR

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### Rafizi quashes 'waste of money' claim

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Minister of Economy Rafizi Ramli has denied allegations from "voices of dissent" claiming that the development of the government's Central Database System (CDS) is a waste as it involves contracts worth hundreds of millions of ringgit.

Rafizi said CDS was fully developed by civil servants from three agencies – the Economy Ministry, Statistics Department (DOSM) and the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (Mampu) – in collaboration with all other agencies.

"For me, the strength of the system lies in the fact that it involves the expertise of civil servants, not consultants and external contractors," he said in a post on his Facebook page yesterday.

He said civil servants developed the system using existing allocations and infrastructure without the need to open new tenders to private entities and did not incur additional expenses, as is often the case whenever a new system is introduced.

Rafizi said CDS was developed within seven months (May to December) and would not involve annual payments to private system providers because it belongs to the government.

"It was completed within a short period by civil servants who worked day and night for seven months without additional allocations.

"I threw a challenge to the core team from the Economy Ministry, DOSM and Mampu, saying it is an opportunity to prove the expertise of civil servants," he said, adding that recognition should be given to the civil servants. – Bernama