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Tajuk : *Do not borrow to impress, Angkasa warns as civil servants' personal loans spike by 10pc for Raya spending*

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Malay Mail

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 — The number of civil servants taking new personal loans has reportedly increased by 10 per cent to around 70,000 individuals, ahead of this year's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations.

Utusan Malaysia quoted National Cooperative Movement of Malaysia (Angkasa) president Datuk Seri Abdul Fattah Abdullah saying this annual trend is linked to increased financial needs during festive seasons and other key periods.

He also warned against borrowing money for unnecessary purchases, such as new furniture or cars, to impress others during the festive season.

"This ensures they do not face long-term financial difficulties. The 60 per cent salary deduction cap is a guideline set by the government through the Public Service Department to ensure civil servants have enough income for essential needs," he said.

This comes as the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar previously advising civil servants to spend within their means to avoid excessive debt.

He warned that under Sub-Regulation 13(7) of the Public Officers (Conduct and Discipline) Regulations 1993, accumulating debts exceeding 10 times one's monthly salary is an offence and could result in disciplinary action.