

## 'Annual intake of 25,000 civil servants to stay'

**PUTRAJAYA:** The annual intake of 25,000 civil servants to replace those who have retired will be continued, said Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa.

He said it was in line with the government's policy to ensure that the 1.61 million civil servants could meet the needs of the population of 30 million people.

"Every year, 25,000 civil servants retire and they need to be replaced through recruitment," he said, referring to a circular by the Treasury.

The circular said effective this month, there would be a freeze on recruitment, overtime payments would be tightened and the entertainment allowances of ministers and deputy ministers would be cut by 10 per cent.

Speaking after handing diplomas in public administration and fellowships to graduates of the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan)



**Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa**

here yesterday, Ali said recruitment of extra employees was unnecessary if it was to staff a new agency.

"We can set up a new agency, but it is the responsibility of the Public Service Department and ministries to obtain staff by transferring civil servants from the ministry involved or other ministries.

"Maybe certain tasks in an agency has become outdated or its impor-

tance has diminished. The employees in the agency should be reduced and they can be placed in a new agency," he said.

He said the government planned to promote administrative and diplomatic officers in their early 40s to higher positions in public administration based on performance.

Earlier, the Economic Planning Unit's former director-general, Tan Sri Dr Sulaiman Mahbob, was announced as the 27th recipient of the Intan Fellow Award. **Bernama**