



Chief Secretary to the Government **Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa** (second from right) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia Vice-Chancellor **Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin** (right) with recipients of excellent service awards in Batu Pahat, Johor yesterday. Pic by Hairul Anuar Rahim

Govt mulls shorter lunch breaks for staff during Ramadan

BATU PAHAT: The government is prepared to consider a proposal to shorten meal break for civil servants by 30 minutes during the fasting month in June.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa said the proposal was made recently by members of the public who felt that civil servants could return home earlier from work to prepare for the breaking of the fast.

"I will forward the proposal to the cabinet for consideration. If approved, government departments and government-related agencies will have 30-minute lunch breaks instead of one hour during the fasting month.

"There is also the three flexible working hours where staff can choose their working hours.

"However, certain departments, like those at Urban Transformation

Centres and Rural Transformation Centres, cannot have shortened lunch breaks and flexible working hours because they need to be there at all times."

All said a shorter meal break during Ramadan would not jeopardise civil service operations.

He was speaking after attending the presentation of excellent service awards at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia here yesterday.

The awards comprise Anugerah Jasa Bakti, which was given to 81 recipients, Anugerah Taat Setia (20), Anugerah Khas PPSM 2015 (13), Anugerah Cuti Belajar (4), Anugerah Pesara (14) and Anugerah Pengajaran (3).

All said the Public Service Department (PSD) received 100,000 applications for 300 positions in the Administrative and Diplomatic Service (PTD).

He said the huge number of applications was due to the PTD being widely considered as a premier service in the PSD.

"We also offer government contract workers a chance to join the public sector as permanent staff after they have rendered 15 years' service, provided their work performance is good."

All said that apart from contract staff, new graduates would also be offered positions in the public service to strike a balance.

"If not, there will be many fresh graduates who will not be able to find a job. About 90 per cent of our offers for permanent positions are taken up."

He said that there would be between 20,000 and 25,000 new government positions offered each year, which include replacements for staff who have retired.