

14 JUL 1998

Halim

CHIEF SECRETARY THANKS PM FOR THE CONFIDENCE

SEREMBAN, July 14 (Bernama) -- Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali today thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for having confidence in him to continue to lead the civil service.

"I will carry out duties and responsibilities entrusted to me to the best of my ability. Under the present situation, it is a great challenge," he told reporters after presenting Quality Control Circle (QCC) in conjunction with the 15th National QCC convention here. He also presented Civil Service Innovation awards 1998.

The government has extended his service for two years after his compulsory retirement today. He has held the post since Sept 17, 1996 when he took over from Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid.

In his speech, Abdul Halim said more innovations need to be introduced so that the civil service would not be shackled by traditions like stringent regulations and procedures, centralisation of authority and decision only from the top.

The Civil Service must be more flexible by discarding old ways and searching for alternative procedures that were more effective, he said.

"As such QCC and Innovation are tools to enable us to re-evaluate all existing systems or to pioneer a 'bottom up planning' system," he said.

To further strengthen the Civil Service, Abdul Halim called on all departmental heads to lead their respective organisations as a united team, consistent and systematic.

In addition, he said departmental heads should give opportunities to all their subordinate officers to exercise their talents in various fields especially activities which involved QCC and Innovation.

"My dream is to realise a Malaysian Civil Service of integrity and world standard," he said.

-- BERNAMA

RP ABG