



GOOD LUCK: Ramli (left) taking a closer look at the appointment letters of the nurses while Saiful (second left) looks on. — Photo by Chimon Upon

4,441 people entered civil service in S'wak last year

KUCHING: Around 4,441 people in the state were hired to serve in various positions in different grades of the public sector last year, disclosed Public Services Commission (SPA) secretary Datuk Ramli Juhari.

According to him, this comprised 11 per cent of the 50,000 successful applications throughout the country.

"SPA Malaysia receives on average 1.2 million applications annually of which 100,000 applications are from Sarawak.

"However, we can only hire around 50,000 people out of the 1.2 million applications received," Ramli told reporters at a press conference at SPA Sarawak branch here yesterday.

Though the percentage of hired civil servants in the state may seem small, Ramli remarked that the 11 per cent was almost similar to that of other states.

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Datuk Ramli Juhari, Public Services Commission (SPA) secretary

"We do not set a quota for hiring as this depends on the vacancies available but if there are vacancies in Sarawak, priority will be given to Sarawakians," he clarified.

Asked to comment on vacancies in the public sector being frozen with the extension of retirement age to 60, Ramli said not all civil servants opt to retire at 60 as some choose to retire early at 58.

"There are many civil servants who will be retiring next year and according to our system, there are approximately 6,000 retiring this year. This goes to show that there will be vacancies available," he said.

"In fact, this year alone, there are almost 60,000 vacancies available throughout the year following the retirement of some civil servants, those getting promoted and new job positions," added Ramli.

Earlier Ramli officiated at the handover of appointment letters to community nurses and assistant administrative officers as well as offer letters for nurse training through KPSP (Promotion by Appointment).

The ceremony was part of SPA's transformation process whereby appointment or offer letters to qualified candidates are handed over personally rather than delivered by mail.

"Previously, the letters were posted to them but we are changing this approach as we feel that handing over appointment letters to the candidates in person enables a personal touch," he explained.

In addition, SPA will be able to inform candidates of the field of work, responsibilities and values emphasised in the public service, Ramli added.

Also present at the ceremony was SPA Sarawak division undersecretary Mohd Saiful Sungkih Abdullah.