



FAREWELL ... Talalla saying goodbye to his staff last Thursday.

## Veteran envoy Talalla retires for the third and last time

By REVATHI MURUGAPPAN

PETALING JAYA: After some 30 years in the foreign service and having retired twice already, Datuk Albert Talalla finds it a "relief" to call it quits for the third and last time.

"The time has finally come for me to take things easy," said the outgoing Director-General of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), which provides training for all government officers dealing with foreign relations.

As the man responsible for helping to establish the institute in 1991, and fine-tuning future Malaysian diplomats, Talalla remains modest about his achievements and attributes it to a dedicated group of support staff.

"It has not been easy but we have

faced the challenges with enthusiasm and this has enabled the institute to gain recognition domestically and internationally," said the affable 62-year-old, who clocked out of the office here on Thursday.

In his 34 years of government service, Talalla has been the Malaysian High Commissioner to Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago, Guyana and ambassador to China, North Korea, the former West Germany, Greece, Mexico and the United States, which was his last posting in 1986.

"I have had an exciting career and it is difficult to think of any particular event that has been most memorable. Each post has been exciting, every issue has been different but they have all been enjoyable and satisfying," he said.