

Valuable gifts: Halim may issue reminder

By Sufi Yusoff

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — There is a standing instruction for civil servants to declare and surrender valuable gifts received by them to the Treasury, Chief secretary to the Government Tan Sri Halim Ali said today.

Therefore, he said, there was no requirement for a specific circular on that matter.

"The ruling is already there that any valuable gifts received must be surrendered to the Treasury.

"I do not think there is a need for another circular to be issued," he said after launching the Institute of Diplomatic and Foreign Relations' logo.

Also present was Public Services Department director-general Tan Sri Mazlan Ahmad, IDFR director-general Fuzi Abdul Razak, his predecessor Datuk Albert Talalla and former Foreign Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafiee.

Halim said however, since the issue had been raised by Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he may consider issuing a reminder to all senior civil servants.

Halim was responding to questions on whether he would issue a circular instructing senior civil servants to declare expensive gifts they received to the Treasury.

This follows Dr Mahathir's statement on Aug 9, that expensive gifts and souvenirs received by politicians and high-ranking civil servants at ceremonies, should be sent to the Finance Ministry to be valued.

He had said that sometimes the souvenirs cost thousands of ringgit.

"We will decide on the souvenirs that can be accepted by the recipients and those that they should send to the Finance Ministry," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that if the gift was expensive, the recipient would be given a choice of whether to buy it from the Government or to allow the Ministry to keep it.



NEW IMAGE... Halim unveiling the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations logo yesterday. At right is Fuzi.