



Better public delivery: Government departments such as Immigration will now be operating longer hours.

Govt depts open from 7.30am-6pm

SEREMBAN: Federal Government departments will now operate for an additional half hour on working days and close at 6pm, said Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Zainal Rahim Seman.

Apart from improving the public delivery system, he said, the move would also give more flexibility to civil servants.

"This is part of the public service transformation process and the continuous improvement of our services.

"Federal offices will now be open from 7.30am to 6pm," he said in a directive.

With longer operating hours, government employees will now work on four shifts: 7.30am to 4.30pm, 8am to 5pm, 8.30am to

5.30pm and 9am to 6pm.

He said that with the new shift, federal departments and agencies in Perlis, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Melaka, Pahang, Sabah, Sarawak and the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya will be open from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Those in Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu and Johor will be open from 7.30am to 6pm from Sunday to Wednesday and 7.30am to 4.30pm on Thursday, Zainal added.

When contacted, Cuepacs president Datuk Azih Muda said the move would allow civil servants to better plan their day.

"Some of them have things to do in the morning, like sending

their children to nurseries, and are unable to come in at the third shift which starts at 8.30am.

"This (being able to start at 9am) will give them more flexibility and reduce the stress of rushing to work to avoid being late," he said, adding that it was Cuepacs that proposed the new shift to the Government.

Asked if this means counter services would be open until 6pm, Azih said this would depend on where the office is located.

"It will make sense to have counter services until 6pm in cities or big towns.

"It won't be practical in smaller towns as the utility bills will certainly go up," he said.