

Law on pensions may be amended by Govt

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THE Government will study the laws to see if the provision on pensions can be amended so that no one gets more than one pension, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"It is because of the laws that we face difficulty in our efforts to reduce pension payments as the clause pertaining to this does not allow for any reduction or cancellation of pension payments," he told the Press today.

He added that the laws had been drawn up by the British so that they would not lose their pensions when the Government was handed over to the people of Malaysia.

"It is because of the self interests of the British that we are now trapped. However, in England, pensions can be reduced or cancelled."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said for the moment, a ruling had been passed to allow only one pension payment to be exempted from tax.

"It is not just Ministers who enjoy more than one pension. Others, like judges, are also getting this benefit," he said.

The Government was looking for ways to reduce pension payments to lessen its financial burden.

"However, at the same time, we must adhere to the laws of the country.

"The Government cannot simply reduce or cancel any pension payments as these have been determined by the law," he said.