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PENSIONERS URGED GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE PENSION

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Government Pensioners' Association (MGPA) has urged the government to increase minimum pension to that above the poverty level.

"Most pensioners are getting pension below the poverty level of RM400. There are those receiving monthly pension of less than RM200. How can they survive?" President Tan Sri Abdullah Ayub told reporters after heading a MGPA delegation in meeting with Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Afiffudin Haji Omar at the ministry, here today.

Abdullah said the deputy minister was sympathetic to their request and promised to bring the matter to the attention of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also Finance Minister, and also Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Since the pension is so small, many pensioners hope that the government will consider giving them an extra month's pension similar to the bonus paid to serving government employees every year," he said.

Abdullah said MGPA was also hoping that the government approve immediately the launching grant of between RM4 to RM5 million for the Pensioners Foundation.

It also urged the government to implement the new pension formula approved on Jan 31, 1996. Under the formula, pension will be calculated based on unlimited length of service. --BERNAMA

ZAB HAR ABG