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DAP WANTS NATIONWIDE DEBATE ON RETIREMENT AGE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- The DAP today called for a nationwide debate on the pros and cons of raising the retirement age of government servants from 55 to 60 and to reach a national consensus on the issue.

Party chairman Lim Kit Siang said this was in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the government would still hear the views of others despite the Cabinet's decision to maintain 55 as the retirement age for civil servants.

"Dr Mahathir said, if anybody has valid reasons as to why there is a need to increase the retirement age which the Cabinet had not looked at, they are willing to hear them," Lim said in a statement.

Lim also called on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to ask the Public Services Department to declassify and to make public its recommendation to the Cabinet on the issue.

He said it was most unfortunate that the reasons for the Cabinet's decision was not made public.

-- BERNAMA

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