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Dr M: Cabinet decision on retirement age to stay

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - The Prime Minister today confirmed the Cabinet has decided to maintain 55 as the retirement age for civil servants but said the Government would still hear the views of others.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Cabinet had reasons for deciding not to increase the retirement age. He did not elaborate on the reasons.

"However, if anybody has valid reasons as to why there is a need to increase the retirement age which the Cabinet had not looked at, we are willing to hear them.

"But whether their reasons would justify an increase in the retirement age for civil servants is another matter," he told reporters after meeting Umno Supreme Council members and about 65 members from various States today.

Dr Mahathir said he was also willing to meet Cuepacs officials to discuss the issue.

Yesterday, Cuepacs president N. Siva Subramaniam said congress officials hoped to meet the Prime Minister on the matter.

The New Straits Times had reported yesterday the Cabinet had decided not to approve a proposal by Cuepacs to extend the compulsory retirement age of civil servants to beyond 55 but has allowed retention of their services based on performance and need.

It is learnt that the Public Service Department is finalising guidelines for heads of department when recommending staff whose services can be extended beyond 55.

PSD sources said re-employment, to be done on an annual basis, will be based on recommendations by heads of department, with a maximum extension of three years.

Cuepacs had submitted two memoranda to the Government last year seeking an extension to the compulsory retirement age.