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Mahathir-Retirement

GOVT TO CONSIDER EXTENDING CIVIL SERVANTS' RETIREMENT AGE

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government is prepared to reconsider its decision not to extend civil servants' retirement age from 55 to 58.

He, however, said this did not mean the government would agree to extend the retirement age to 58 as requested by Cuepacs, the umbrella body for public sector unions.

"We'll bring up this matter to the government's attention. We will consider, we may or may not agree.

"I'm saying this because the newspapers sometimes report that the government had agreed to certain things while he had merely said the government would consider," he told reporters after chairing the National Information Technology Council meeting, here.

He said this when asked to comment on his meeting with some 500 top civil servants at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) in Bukit Kiara this morning.

Dr Mahathir said the proposal was raised at the premier assembly but was not discussed in yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting.

He also said the Cabinet did not discuss the New Remuneration Scheme for government employees introduced in 1992.

On requests by several quarters to Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to state whether he would contest for the Umno president or deputy president's posts in the party elections in May, Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said he did not want to comment on it.

"As far as I'm concern, I adhere to the supreme council's decision. What other people want to do, it is different, I have no comment," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh had said he never intended to contest for the top two posts but had issued statements that secret ballots be used to choose delegates to the party's General Assembly.

This had created doubts among party members whether he genuinely did not want to contest the two posts.

-- BERNAMA

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