

11 JAN 2000

MAHATHIR WILLING TO MEET CUEPACS ON CIVIL SERVANTS' RETIREMENT AGE

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he is willing to meet Cuepacs on its proposal to extend the mandatory retirement age for civil servants from 55 to 58.

The Prime Minister said the Cabinet had fixed 55 as the retirement age for government employees based on specific reasons.

"But if people can give other reasons which the Cabinet did not consider, we are prepared to listen. Whether or not we will be influenced by these other views is another matter," he said.

He told reporters this after a meeting and leadership session with 100 Umno leaders from throughout the country at the Prime Minister's Department here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on Cuepacs president N. Siva Subramaniam's statement yesterday that the umbrella body for public sector unions wanted to meet him to discuss that proposal.

Siva said Cuepacs would present additional points for the Prime Minister's consideration.

He said it was estimated that more than 12,000 government employees went on mandatory retirement every year, and this required the government to make big allocations for gratuity and pension payments.

-- BERNAMA

MAM YBY