

13/01/2000

Raise retirement age, says council

KUCHING, Wed. - The Sarawak Labour Council feels the Government should be more open and receptive to the country's needs by allowing those who have reached 55 to continue serving the nation in their specialised fields.

Its president, William Ghani Bina, said today the retirement age should be 60, "but at the same time, the Government should allow an option to those who want to retire at 40."

He was commenting on a report that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had confirmed that the Cabinet had decided to maintain 55 as the retirement age for civil servants but the Government would still consider the views of others.

Ghani, who is also Sarawak Teachers' Union president, said the need for raising the compulsory retirement age was more urgent in the teaching field to allow more teachers to be retained.

Ghani said the retirement age of 55 had become obsolete as it was adopted by the British colonial administrators at a time when the life expectancy of the country's population was shorter compared to the average 69 for men and 74 for women now.

He added that many employees were still in their prime at 55.

(END)