

Task force appeals to PM to reinstate annuity scheme

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Save Annuity Task Force today appealed to the Prime Minister to reinstate the Employees' Provident Fund annuity scheme, claiming that it would create a better environment for every adult in their later years.

In a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, they said studies had shown that a number of contributors used up their EPF money within three to four years and later became a social problem and social cost to the Government.

"Moreover with rapid advancement in the field of medicine and an increase in health awareness, people tend to live longer and therefore it is vital there is some steady source of income until our last day," they said in the memorandum.

The memorandum with an endorsement of 100,000 signatures of

policy-holders was handed to the Prime Minister's principal private secretary Alias Abu Bakar. The recently-formed task force has about 500 contributors.

They said with the scheme being managed by insurance companies, there was the benefit of spreading the risks among different experts in the field of investment.

"The scheme also allows us to relax and let the experts do the investments for us, which would secure us for life."

They said they were disgusted with the attitude of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress which they claimed had taken the onus to represent nine million over people when they only catered for a membership of 500,000 workers.

The EPF annuity scheme introduced in July last year was suspended on May 10 pending a study by a consultant following objections from the MTUC.