

# ***Retirement age needs study***

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## **Legal viewpoint required, says Dr M**

By ZULKIFLI ABD RAHMAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a legal interpretation of the retirement age of civil servants needs to be done.

The Prime Minister said the issue was whether retirement should be when a worker reached the age of 55 or a year after that.

"We have laws to follow. We have to be clear on this matter and consider the legal viewpoint of the retirement age first before taking action," said Dr Mahathir, in response to whether the Government would decide to accept a proposal to extend the current retirement age of 55 to 56.

Cuepacs, the umbrella body for public sector unions, said recently the Government had agreed in principle to extend the retirement age for civil servants to 56. Civil servants now retire on their 55th birthday.

Earlier, in his speech at the Workers Day gathering for civil servants at Intan, Dr Ma-

hathir urged Malaysians not to emulate foreign workers, who tended to vent their frustrations about their jobs by holding demonstrations and confronting the Government.

"Militant action by workers will only result in socio-economic woes for the people."

Dr Mahathir said although Malaysian workers had been hit by economic slowdown in the past, they did not demand higher pay or hold street demonstrations like that in other countries.

"Workers can liaise with the relevant ministries or agencies so that the Government can study their requests or recommendations.

"The abhorrence of militant action by our workers has helped the Government to concentrate on improving the economy and the lives of workers," said Dr Mahathir.

He added that workers should also study the good and bad effects of globalisation and urged them to support the Government's efforts to improve the economy.