

Let employees choose retirement age: Siva

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PETALING JAYA, Sat: Cuepacs welcomes the government's plan to extend the retirement age of civil servants to between 58 and 60, but says employees should be given the choice on the matter.

Its president N. Siva Subramaniam said workers' opinion should be sought and they should be given the choice of whether to retire at the current age of 55 or the proposed age of 60.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that the retirement age will be gradually reviewed over a period of several years due to financial implications.

"The move to increase this gradu-

ally is logical and we are in constant contact with the government and the PSD (Public Services Department) over the matter," he told *The Sun*.

Siva said the extension cannot be done in a hurry as it may bring several detrimental implications.

Meanwhile, Malayan Nurses Union president Anne Khoo said a comprehensive study must be conducted on the possible effects of the proposed extension to ensure it will be beneficial for all.

She said that the government has to look into ways to review the benefits which retirees are entitled to at the age of 58 and age of 60.

"If the benefits are similar to those who retire at 55, then they will think twice before staying," she said.

Khoo said if senior staff are retained, then the downline staff may not get promoted.