

Civil servants can now retire at 56 from Oct 1

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Cabinet today decided that the retirement age for civil servants will be extended from 55 to 56 effective Oct 1 if relevant laws are passed by Parliament.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn told the *New Straits Times* the decision was in line with views from various quarters that the retirement age be increased.

The Dewan Rakyat, which adjourns *sine die* tomorrow, will sit again in July and for the Budget session in October.

In March, it was announced that the Government had agreed in principle to raise the retirement age to 56.

Last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the retirement age for civil ser-

vants would eventually be raised to 60.

The present retirement age of 55 has remained unchanged for about 60 years.

Except for those under the Superscale Group such as directors-general, secretaries-general and specialist teachers, the rest were not allowed to serve beyond 55 years.

Judges, however, retire at 65.

The Public Service Department had in 1999 proposed that the retirement age for civil servants be raised to 58 years.

Cuepacs, the umbrella organisation for civil service unions, has been seeking a review of the retirement age for several years now.

Relevant laws need to be amended before the new retirement age can take effect.