

Government to study request for pension scheme review, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government is willing to study the request by the Malaysian Government Pensioners Association for a review of their present pension scheme.

"I realise that pensions can still be increased, but definitely not raised until they get the full amount of their last drawn salary. If this is the case, many will retire immediately," he said at a dinner organised by the association.

Studies had shown that Malaysia's pension scheme was better than those implemented in other countries, he added.

He said the pension scheme had seen improvement through the years as bonus was now paid to civil servants when they retired compared to previous schemes which limited pension to 12 years.

Even when a pensioner died, his widow and children would still enjoy a portion of the derivative pension, he added.

Addressing the retirees tonight, Dr Mahathir advised them to keep themselves active and busy, and not "withdraw from living" or focus on preparing for the hereafter.

Dr Mahathir warned that "those who do not find work, who do not do anything, usually feel ill and fade away".

Meanwhile, association president Tan Sri Abdullah Ayob said more than 60,000 government pensioners were receiving pensions of less than RM400 per month.