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Parliament-Retire

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION RETIRING AT 56 NOT KNOWN YET, SAYS TENGKU AZLAN

KUALA LUMPUR, July 16 (Bernama) -- The financial implication from the government's decision to extend the retirement age will only be known after the actual number of government employees opting to retire at 56 has been determined, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Tengku Azlan Sultan Abu Bakar, however, said if all the eligible candidates sign up to retire at 56, the government could save an estimated RM173 million in pension payment in the first year and RM814 million in deferred gratuity payments for a year.

"As all other government policies, the policy to extend the mandatory retirement age was decided following a detailed study after taking into account the socio-economic aspects and the interests of the country and people, he told Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (BN-Batang Lupar) during question time.

He said the government had decided that civil servants would be given the option whether they wished to retire after attaining the age of 55 or continue their service until 56.

They would be given a month to make the option, he said.

Till June 30 this year, 414 retirees were re-appointed to the federal civil service, he said.

Of the total, 74 of them were in the Top Management Group, 105 in the Management and Professional Group and 235 in the Support Group, he said.

Tengku Azlan said civil servants retiring at 55 were eligible to be considered for re-appointment on the recommendation from their departments or ministries requiring their services.

He said officers recommended for service extension must be those with excellent service record, vast experience and highly skilled.

Tengku Azlan said all proposals for re-appointment must get the consent of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Except for certain appointments and services, retirees are only allowed to serve until they reach 60," he said.

He said the rationale for re-hiring retirees was to cope with the shortage of skilled and experienced manpower to carry out certain work and also to provide continuity.

"Sometimes, some officers are needed to complete an important project which they have started," he said.

The Public Services Department, being the central agency responsible to vet and endorse the re-appointment proposals of retirees by ministries and departments, ensured that the appointments do not affect the promotion opportunities of junior officers, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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