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Full salary pension is just not possible

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GOVERNMENT pensioners are very relieved by the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that he realised that pension can still be increased and that the Government is willing to study the request by the Malaysian Government Pensioners Association for a review of their present pension scheme (NST, July 5).

However, to say that pension will not be raised until they get the full amount of their last drawn salary indicates that someone has misled the Government that such a thing is possible.

At present pension is only half salary and if pension is calculated based on the formula of  $1/600 \times \text{service in months} \times \text{last drawn salary}$  with the compulsory retirement age as 55 years then:

One who joins service at age 30 will get 50 per cent of salary as pension;

One who joins service at age 25 will get 60 per cent of salary as pension;

One who joins service at age 20 will get 70 per cent of salary as pension; and,

Hypothetically, one who joins service at the minimum age for employment of 14 years can get 82 per cent of salary as pension.

To get the full amount of the last drawn salary as pension one must join service at the age of five years, which is impossible.