

04 JUL 2001

Mahathir-Pensioners

GOV'T WILLING TO REVIEW PENSION SCHEME

KUALA LUMPUR, July 4 (Bernama) -- 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 am aware that there is certainly something that can be given, but no promises. When we give full pay, definitely many will retire," he said at a dinner organised by the association, here tonight.

Association president Tan Sri Abdullah Ayob, in his welcoming speech, said more than 60,000 government pensioners now are receiving pensions of less than RM400 per month.

Dr Mahathir said the government had conducted a study on the pension rates in several countries including the developed nations and found that the Malaysian pension system is better.

"Recently, the government paid bonus to government pensioners. In the past, pensions were sometimes limited to 12 years only," he said.

At the same time, he said pensioners must do something that is beneficial after completing their service including writing books or memoirs about their experiences.

"If you have no work, please find one. Don't think too much about fate, otherwise you age faster," he said in jest.

Dr Mahathir said although there are some pensioners who give more emphasis on preparation for the hereafter, this should not make them withdraw from life completely to the extent that they become weak.

-- BERNAMA

RZS MAM AO