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JAMIN-ANNUITY

JAMIN URGES GOVT TO CONTINUE ANNUITY SCHEME

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- The Bumiputera Insurance Consultants Association of Malaysia (JAMIN) is urging the government to lift the suspension of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF)'s annuity scheme managed by the Annuity Consortium of Malaysia comprising six insurance companies.

The scheme was suspended since May 10 upon the request of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC), JAMIN's central zone chairman, Dr. Abdul Jalil Hashim.

To this end, he said the association would send an open letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday to consider JAMIN's proposals.

The members of the consortium comprise Malaysian Assurance Alliance Bhd, MCIS Insurance Bhd, Mayban Life Assurance Bhd, Hong Leong Assurance Bhd, John Hancock Life Insurance Bhd and Malaysia National Insurance Bhd.

On the same day, EPF would hold a meeting to discuss whether or not to continue with the scheme and who would manage it, he told a press conference on the upcoming JAMIN convention here today.

In view of the spiralling costs for senior citizens, he said a suitable organisation was needed to manage the scheme which was an excellent financial plan for private sector employees.

Dr. Abdul Jalil said other companies besides those in the consortium such as Arab Malaysian Finance Bhd, Talasco Insurance Bhd and companies under PIAM should also be allowed to market the scheme.

The annuity scheme was introduced on July 1, 2000, after a four-year review with 250,000 members. It was offered to EPF contributors as an option.

Meanwhile, JAMIN President, Ngah @ Mohamed Ishak, said the association would meet the Bank Negara's Director of the Insurance Regulation Unit, Zakaria Ismail, on Aug 8 to enable the Bumiputera Training Fund (BTF) to be raised from RM1 million to RM2 million from this year onwards.

Since the establishment of the BTF, Bumiputera participation in the insurance business has risen from five to 20 percent, he said. -- BERNAMA

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