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Pensions reinstated for remarried widows

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Government's proposal to allow widows who remarry to be paid their husband's pension will include those who had lost the privilege after tying the knot again.

This means a widow who used to receive her husband's pension previously but had the benefit withdrawn after remarrying will have it reinstated.

A Public Service Department official said the proposal made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Budget did not only cover new cases but includes those who already had the privilege taken away.

"But we cannot confirm the effective date," the official said.

Yesterday, Opposition leader Datuk Fadzil Noor said the Government should extend the privilege to widows who had stopped receiving their husband's pension after remarrying.

He said this when debating the Budget at Dewan Rakyat.

Fadzil had also urged the Government to allow a woman whose second husband had passed away to be entitled to two pensions.

There was no provision barring a widow to hold two pensions.

However, one would be a pension and the other a derivative pension.

This means that a widow, whose first husband was a civil servant, will have two pensions in the event she remarries a civil servant and outlives him.

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