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Mahathir-Age

RETIREMENT AGE: GOVT NEEDS TO STUDY LEGAL ASPECTS, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, May 1 (Bernama) -- The government needs to consider the legal aspects in deciding to extend the retirement age for government employees to 56 from 55 at present, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We have to clear from the legal point of view. If not, it will be difficult," he told reporters after addressing the 2001 Workers' Day Rally for public sector employees at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) in Bukit Kiara, here.

Age interpretation was involved in determining the retirement age, he said when asked when the government would make an announcement on the extension of the retirement age.

Cuepacs, the umbrella body for public sector unions, said recently that the government had agreed in principle to extend the retirement age for civil servants to 56.

Dr Mahathir said the problem now was the interpretation of the age.

"The problem now is, the interpretation of age 55 is when we reach 55, not when we complete 55.

"What we want to do now is that the interpretation is taken to mean that it is upon the completion of 55, meaning that the employee is approaching 56, then it becomes one year, not much of an increase, it is only in terms of interpretation," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also asked on the review of the New Remuneration Scheme which had created dissatisfaction among majority of government employees.

He said: "It is a very complex thing, we have to study it."

-- BERNAMA

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