

# EPF asked to consider carefully allowing haj withdrawals

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SHAH ALAM, Sat. — The Employees' Provident Fund has been asked to carefully consider the plan to allow contributors to withdraw part of their savings for the purpose of performing the haj.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was important not to use up one's savings before retirement as there would not be much left later in their old age.

Dr Mahathir said if ~~there were~~ too many withdrawals, there would not be sufficient money in their savings to support them later.

"If there are too many withdrawals then the savings will be inadequate upon the contributor's retirement. There will be no returns for their savings if EPF contributions are withdrawn for the haj

"The savings will be insufficient to cater for the years after their retirement or when they fall ill.

"I hope the EPF will carefully consider this," Dr Mahathir said after Umno's 56th anniversary celebration at Stadium Malawati.

Yesterday, responding to a report, EPF chairman Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali said EPF was willing to consider allowing its contributors to withdraw part of their savings for the purpose of performing the haj.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had allowed contributors to withdraw their EPF savings to purchase houses and computers.

"We have allowed them to make withdrawals for all kinds of things, for their house and computer purchases. In time, the savings for their old age will be used up even before they reach old age.

"When we are not working any longer and left without any money, then only we realise that there is not enough provision for our old age. Then we will feel sad and ask ourselves why we had used up all the money."