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Leaders are testimony to productive life after 55

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THE accomplishments of Tun Dr Mahathir in the 22 years that he led the nation could fill several books.

Yet he would not have achieved many of the triumphs of his legendary premiership if the retirement age for politicians had been fixed at 55.

Which brings me to the question: is 55 too early an age for retirement? I think it is. We are losing a huge amount of talent every year because of this.

Among professionals, it is a terrible waste of knowledge and experience. These people will definitely get a job elsewhere, maybe on a part-time basis but the "retired" label is stuck on them. As for the non-professionals, they lose their source of income and no one will ever consider them for anything else. For example, they would not even qualify for any loan.

As Malaysia gets older, so too its citizens and with the vast improvements in the quality of life, the number of retired people will increase tremendously.

How are we going to attend to their needs? How are they going to continue to enjoy the quality of life they have been used to?

People can be very productive well beyond 55. Our leaders are a testimony to this.

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