

Retire at 60

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Govt to study longer term for civil servants

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PUTRAJAYA: The Government will study extending the retirement age of civil servants to 60.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the

current retirement age of 56 was too low for one to retire.

He said the longer life span and better health enjoyed by Malaysians now should also be taken into account.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Association of Administrative

and Diplomatic Service (PPTD) here, he said that civil servants who reached the age of 56 would possess a wealth of experience, and they could still contribute to the Government.

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DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

PM says there's merit to review the case

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Referring to PPTD president Tan Sri Aseh Che Mat's speech earlier, in which he suggested that the retirement age for civil servants should be fixed at 60, Abdullah said: "There's merit for us to review it."

Abdullah pointed out that 40 used to be the age of maturity but now people were at the prime of their life when they were in their 50s.

He said that when one reached the age of 60, one could still be considered young nowadays.

"This matter will therefore be kept in view and discussed in future to determine its pros and cons," said Abdullah.

He, however, said some people would be against increasing the retirement age.

"They would complain that it would make it difficult for them to move up in their career given that it would take so long for civil servants to retire.

"We'll have to consider all these factors. But I sincerely believe that 56 is a little bit too young to retire. The question is how do we go about it," Abdullah said.

Aseh, in urging the Government to increase the retirement age to 60, said PPTD failed to understand the need to extend appointments of civil servants on a contract basis.

"It appears this issue will not go away - as such the association seeks the Prime Minister's intervention to have the retirement age reviewed," said Aseh, who is the secretary-general of the Home Affairs Ministry.

He also pointed out that the retirement age of civil servants in some countries was beyond the age of 65.

Aseh also called for the Efficiency Level Assessment under the Malaysian Remuneration System for Government employees to be done away with.

"There is a lot of dissatisfaction over it. Mid-level promotion vacancies remain unfilled because of it," he said.

He added that the association also supported the call by Cuepacs for a salary review for civil servants.

At the dinner, Aseh presented to Abdullah a RM25,000 contribution from PPTD for the National Disaster Fund.