

Abu Talib: Retain only the best

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Cheaper to keep civil servants, says Cuepacs



Omar: 'Medical cost for pensioners is quite high'

PETALING JAYA: While Cuepacs welcomes the proposal to extend the retirement age of civil servants to 60, a former Attorney-General has stressed the need for a vetting process to retain only the best.

Cuepacs president Omar Osman, who said that between 15,000 and 20,000 civil servants retire each year, expressed hope that the proposal would be carried out this year.

"The sooner this proposal is implemented, the sooner you will be able to prevent the loss of expertise and experience."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Monday that the Government would study the proposal by the Association of Administrative and Diplomatic Service to extend the retirement age beyond 56.

Currently, extensions of service after 56 are made on a contractual basis.



Lok: 'Malaysians today live longer'

Asked whether keeping civil servants on until 60 would pose a financial burden to the Government, Omar said it would work out to be cheaper for the Government.

"The medical cost for pensioners is quite high," he noted.

"Studies have shown that employees who were perfectly healthy developed health problems soon after retirement."

Former attorney-general and Suhakam chairman Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman, 68, said the most important considerations should be "the best minds, commitment and trustworthiness."

"The question should be whether the civil servant at whichever level can deliver towards the development of the nation," he said.

The National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) lauded the move, with its secretary-general Lok Yim Pheng saying: "Malaysians



Abu Talib: Outlined a selective extension of civil servants

today are healthy and live longer so it will be beneficial for teachers to share their vast knowledge with others for a few extra years."

Education Services Commission chairman and former education director-general Tan Sri Abdul Rafie Mahat also supported the move.

"We need to retain experienced teachers for critical subjects such as English."

But there are others who do not share the same opinion.

"I feel burnt out and would quit tomorrow if I could," said a secondary school teacher from Johor Baru who has been teaching for 24 years.

"The job has become very tough these days, with a lot of paperwork to deal with. There isn't enough time to think about teaching. If results are not up to par, we are blamed."

A 57-year-old retired teacher said: "If we have done our best during our career, it's just nice to retire at 55."