

# Cuepac: Civil servants must do better

■ By Farrah Naz Karim  
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ternational Convention Centre yesterday.

On the new retirement age, which has been raised from 56 to 58, Omar said although Cuepac had asked for it to be extended to 60 years, it was happy with 58.

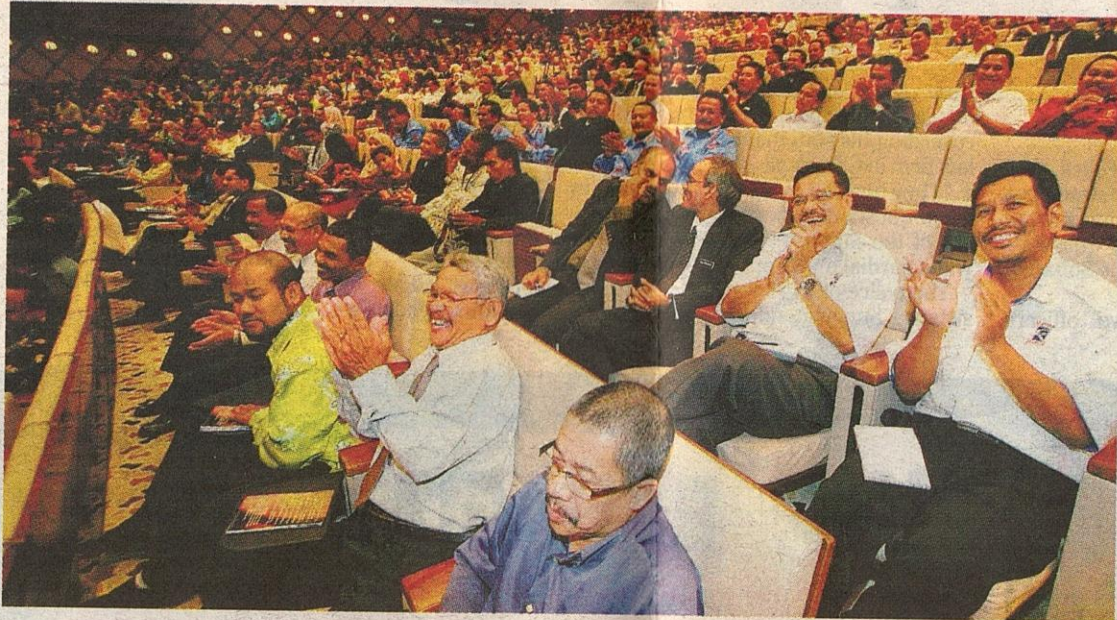
But there would come a time for the government to raise it again, he added.

On the Efficiency Level Assessment (PTK) that would be retained with changes, Omar said Cuepac welcomed the move to exempt written tests for employees from Grade 1 to 16. He said Cuepac had submitted a working paper to the government on the best assessment methods and would continue to help improve the system.

PTK, which has become a bone of contention among civil servants, was introduced in 2002 when the Malaysian Remuneration System replaced the New Remuneration System.

Passing the PTK was used as a basis for promotion.

Omar said with Abdullah's announcement, retirees could expect bigger pensions from next year although there



Cuepac members applauding Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's announcement in the increase in the retirement age to 58.

would be no payment for arrears.

He said Cuepac accepted that the government was not able to backdate the additional payments as it had to deal with huge expenditures.

Commenting on Cuepac's request for a review of the housing allowance, Omar said he was told by Abdullah that

the issue would be considered in Budget 2009.

The Public Service Department (PSD) would look into its requests for critical allowances, he added.

Present at the gathering were ministers, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan and PSD director Tan Sri Is-

mail Adam.

Earlier, Omar said the relationship between employees and bosses in the civil service should be improved.

He said some heads of government agencies and departments thought of unions as a nuisance seeking to interfere in their affairs.

"This should not be the case.

When the prime minister can hold talks and engage with Cuepac, why can't these agencies and departments do the same?"

Omar said Cuepac was gathering reports from unions which had been facing such problems and would forward them to the chief secretary to the government.