

# Get financial planner to invest EPF money after retirement

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RETIREMENT should be a phase of life when a person gets out of the rat race to rest and spend time with the family, focussing more on spiritual pursuits.

Sadly, this is not the case for everyone as there are people who have to continue working even when they are old and tired as they do not have enough funds to support themselves in their twilight years.

According to Prof Dr Noor Azlinna Azizan, the director of the Entrepreneurship Centre at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), every individual must make preparations for retirement, regardless of whether he works in the private or government sectors.

She said although a person has a pension or savings in the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), this would not be sufficient to support him during the later years if he does not have financial planning.

"There are many people in this country who, when they retire, are drawn into business ventures with their friends even though they have no knowledge of the field.

"By right, before retiring, they should gain some knowledge to avoid being cheated or suffer losses because they will lose their hard-earned money," she said.

She added that the best way to avoid incurring losses or being cheated is to appoint a

financial planner who will invest in unit trust funds offered by local financial institutions.

"If, for instance, you have savings of between RM200,000 and RM450,000 in the EPF, when you retire, invest it in unit trusts and ask the financial planner to look for a fund which can provide the best dividends.

"Let the money work for you and this way, the capital amount will not be disturbed and at the same time, you can support yourselves on the dividends earned."

She admitted, however, that unit trust funds also have an element of risk as there could be losses from the investments, but she said the risk is small compared to bonds or the stock market.

Noor Azlinna, who is also a lecturer at UMP's Faculty of Management, said people who are worried about investing in unit trust funds could keep their money in Amanah Saham Bumiputera or Tabung Haji.

She also said in order to enjoy a comfortable retirement, a person must settle his big debts such as housing, personal and car loans earlier.

"Work a little bit harder before retirement to pay off the debts so that the EPF money need only be spent on expenses such as food, medicine and insurance," she said.

— Bernama