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MAHATHIR
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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 20 (BERNAMA) -- THE EDUCATION MINISTRY WILL GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO EX-SERVICEMEN'S CHILDREN WHO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED P SAID TODAY.

HIS MINISTRY WOULD ALSO CONSIDER REDUCING THE SCHOOL FEES OF NEEDY CHILDREN OF EX-SERVICEMEN.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE SELANGOR BRANCH OF THE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION AT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA HERE.

HE SAID HE HAD DIRECTED HIS MINISTRY TO GIVE PRIORITY TO EX-SERVICEMEN IN FILLING VACANCIES LIKE GUARDS OR OTHER SUITABLE JOBS.

HE HOPED EX-SERVICEMEN WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. - BERNAMA MORE 1305/AR

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HE SAID THEY SHOULD SET THE EXAMPLE OF A DISCIPLINED LIFE FOR SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY SCHOOL CHILDREN TO FOLLOW.

EARLIER, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION, TAN SRI HAJI MUBIN SHEPPARD, URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE PENSION FOR EX-SERVICEMEN WHO WERE INJURED, HANDICAPPED OR SERIOUSLY ILL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PENSION HAD NOT BEEN RAISED IN THE LAST 15 YEARS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A SPECIAL LOW-COST HOUSING SCHEME FOR OLD EX-SERVICEMEN AS WAS BEING PRACTISED IN OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

PREFERENCE SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO EX-SERVICEMEN APPLYING FOR TAXI AND MINIBUS LICENCES, HE ADDED. - BERNAMA MORE 1310/AB

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IN JOHORE BAHRU, THE MENTRI BESAR DATO' HAJI OTHMAN SAAT URGED EX-SERVICEMEN TO CONTINUE ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTAIN THE TERRORIST THREAT.

THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST COMMUNIST ELEMENTS ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NO LONGER IN THE SERVICES, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE JOHORE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO HELP THE ASSOCIATION IN ITS PROJECTS.

A PIECE OF LAND HAD BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE BRANCH FOR AN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT, HE ADDED. - BERNAMA 1312/AB