

New scheme to cover armed forces personnel

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — All contributors to the Armed Forces Fund Board (AFFB) will be covered by the Armed Forces Death and Disablement Benefit Scheme which comes into force tomorrow.

The scheme is designed to provide the contributors or their next of kin with a fair sum of money upon discharge from service due to infirmity of mind or body or upon death while in service.

Announcing the scheme today, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said every contributor would be covered by the scheme.

Every rank and file member of the armed forces is required to con-

tribute 10 per cent of his monthly salary to the fund with the Government contributing 15 per cent.

However, participation for officers is on a voluntary basis and their contributions are in multiples of \$25 with a maximum of \$100 per month.

The Prime Minister said the scheme would not in any way affect the contributor's accumulated contributions or other entitled benefits.

"On the other hand, contributions from the scheme would be the additional payments to the next of kin or the unfortunate contributor," he said when opening AFFB's new \$34 million building at the junction of Jalan Imbi and Jalan Bukit Bintang this evening.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Defence Minister, said the scheme would be managed from the total contributions allocated from the yearly profits of the fund.

The Prime Minister also urged the AFFB staff and management to be functional, practical and economical in carrying out their tasks.

He was happy with the projects carried out by the AFFB to diversify its investment, such as investing in property, as a way to protect the contributors' money despite the economic slowdown.