

Force 136
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members
still as
patriotic
as ever

By Darshan Kaur

It may be 50 years later, but these veterans of the "Guerrilla Force 136", otherwise known as *Harimau Malaya*, are as patriotic as ever.

They came out in full force to meet Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Stadium Negara yesterday. Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak (left) and Malaysian Ex-Servicemen's Association president Datuk Zainal Abidin Johari (second from left) were with the Prime Minister at this meeting.

Harimau Malaya was the first military group in Perak which launched guerilla warfare against the Japanese forces during the Second World War.

Yesterday's special gathering saw the biggest attendance of ex-servicemen, prompting the Prime Minister to remark that he has never seen such a packed stadium before.

"I've attended several functions here, but I've never seen an occasion where

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Special award for Prime Minister

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not only all the seats were taken up but there was no more place to stand," said Dr Mahathir, who was wearing a special cap and shirt to mark the occasion.

The event, the first of its kind, was organised by the association and attended by members and their families.

To commemorate the occasion, Dr Mahathir

launched a special edition of *Pahlawan*, a magazine of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

The Prime Minister was also awarded the *Anugerah Darjah Bakti Wira Terpuji*, a special award for his support and national contribution.

Najib and the association's former president, Jen (B) Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bidin, also received the

award.

Later, the Prime Minister presented the "Bintang Bakti Wira" award to representatives of 13 corporate bodies for their contributions to the association.

Among them were Petroleum Nasional Bhd, Magnum Corporation Bhd, Resort World Berhad, Arab Malaysian Merchant Bank, Malaysia Airlines and Sapura Holdings Bhd.