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Mahathir - loafing

GOVERNMENT "NO" TO NATIONAL SERVICE

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government does not propose to have national service to overcome the problem of loafing among youngsters in the country.

However the government was in favour of voluntary organisations providing training and drill practices to the young people to check loafing, he said after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council here.

Dr Mahathir said youngsters should be organised to undertake activities along the lines of the Outwardbound school.

"Such activities should be attractive and should benefit them," he said.

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Mahathir - loafing 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Youth and Sports Minister Haji Ghani Othman said in Muar yesterday that the government would enlist the services of institutions of higher learning in the country to help the ministry undertake a study on the habits of youths and determine the actual number of youths wasting their time at shopping centres.

He said a study on the actual number of youths involved in this habit was vital to enable the ministry to plan programmes for them and give them appropriate attention.

With the participation of the institutions of higher learning, the study could be more comprehensive and not confined to Kuala Lumpur alone, he said.

Ghani said his ministry had earlier undertaken a study involving 280 youths at four shopping centres in Kuala Lumpur and the Central Market. -- Bernama

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