

15 MAR 1996

JMF

JMF CAN RECRUIT NEW PERSONNEL, SAYS GHANI

JOHOR BAHRU, March 15 (Bernama) -- The central government has given the green light for the Johor Military Force (JMF) to take in new recruits to fill up vacancies in the force, Menteri Besar Haji Abdul Ghani Othman said.

Abdul Ghani said he had received advice from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently that the JMF filled up vacancies in the force for ceremonial and official duties.

The cabinet had decided that vacancies in the JMF due mainly to retirement should be filled up, he told reporters here today.

"The personnel strength of the JMF has depleted so much ... to the extent that there is not enough men even for parade drills," he said.

Abdul Ghani estimated that there were 70 vacancies that needed to be filled.

He was commenting on the actual position of the force following the advertisement for recruitment by the JMF as the state government had announced previously that any vacancy in the force would not be filled up.

The JMF, which has a strength of about 100 men presently, was formed in 1885 and is governed by the Johor Military Force Enactment 1915.

The JMF only provides military services to the Sultan of Johor including palace guard duties and providing a band for official functions involving the Sultan and his immediate family.

The establishment of the JMF came into being with the signing of the "Pledge of Allegiance" by the late Sultan Abu Bakar on behalf of the Johor Government and Frederick Arthur Stanly who represented the Queen of Great Britain, at the Colonial Office in London on December 11, 1885. -- BERNAMA

MKO AO