

17 NOV 1996
Association
PBPM TO BE FINANCIALLY SELF-RELIANT

IPOH, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- The Ex-Servicemen's Association of Malaysia (PBPM) is confident it will be financially self reliant next year following its involvement in economic activities through its investment company, PBPM Holdings, its president Datuk Zainol Abidin Johari said today.

He said the company set up in 1990, was now actively involved in sub-contract jobs for mega projects like Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) and Putrajaya.

The company, increasingly active since the last two years after Lt. Kol (Rtd) Zainol Yan became its managing director recorded a turnover of RM1.5 million last year and the amount was expected to double this year, he said after the opening of the association's extraordinary delegates conference and general meeting here by Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

Zainol Abidin said the association planned to expand its economic activities by setting up another investment body, Yayasan Perkasa.

"However PBPM was waiting for a reply from Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the matter, and appointment of its Board of Trustees," he said.

Zainol Abidin said with its investment activities PBPM hoped to reduce its dependence on government contribution and public donation for its activities which required at least RM2 million annually.

However PBPM hoped the Armed Forces Fund Board (LTAT) would provide an annual allocation to PBPM now that LTAT directly channelled all assistance to the Ex-Servicemen's Affairs Corporation, (Perhebat), he said.

He said before Perhebat was set up the contribution was channelled to the Ex-servicemen's Fund handled by PBPM.

Perhebat however had agreed to help former ex-servicemen by giving out interest-free loans of RM5,000 for three years to those interested to start petty business, he said.

He said applications could be made through PBPM division level from Jan 1.

Zainol Abidin said PBPM had set up a committee to draw up an action plan to ensure the association kept abreast of developments as the country marched towards industrialised nation status.

The committee is chaired by prominent educationist, Prof Tan Sri Awang Had Salleh. -- BERNAMA

HK MTA AAM