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Muhyiddin-Pioneers

5,000 PIONEERS IN NATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE SCHEME

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- A total of 5,000 participants will join the National Social Service Programme (NSSP) to be initiated for school leavers in February, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

He said 100 training centres had been identified nationwide to train the youths after completing their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination.

"Their compulsory drafting from four to six weeks will require the youths to stay at the centre for character building and moral upliftment," he said after opening a youth counselling symposium at the International Youth Centre in Cheras here.

The one-day symposium was aimed at exposing the youth association leaders, Rakan Muda officers and the higher learning institute students to effective counselling methods.

Muhyiddin said the final draft of the NSSP was almost ready and it would be sent to the module and steering committees under his ministry, for the final vetting.

Last February, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government was discussing the proposal in the form of the favoured "national service" for the school leavers, as a move to combat the present social ills.

Dr Mahathir said implementation of the service would also help to build the youths' inner strength as well as safeguarding them from being influenced by bad hats.

Muhyiddin also said 700 co-counsellors, drawn from among the youth leaders and others from the institutes of higher learning, would be trained later in the year to offer the part-time counselling service.

"The co-counsellors provide advice on minor cases while the heavier cases will be referred to the 12 professional counsellors appointed by the National Youth Counselling Centre," he added. -- BERNAMA

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