

06 FEB 1997

Muhyiddin-Service

PROPOSAL TO MAKE NATIONAL SERVICE COMPULSORY TO ALL YOUTHS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- A working paper on the national service for youths will be ready by the end of the month and presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

He said the working paper among others would propose that national service be made compulsory to all youths after they completed their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM).

"The ministry feels if the programme is to achieve its objective to inculcate noble values in youths, it must be made compulsory, not optional with some involved and others not," he said at a news conference at his office here.

Muhyiddin said the national service would involve 300,000 to 400,000 youths a year and detailed planning, suitable programme module and infrastructure support such as manager and facilitators were needed.

"We'll will only know whether the implementing agency would be the Youth and Sports Ministry, Education Ministry or Pusat Islam after the cabinet has discussed it or discussion with the Prime Minister," he said.

The Malaysian Youth Council (MBM), meanwhile, welcomed move by the government to consider introducing national service for school leavers in efforts to curb social ills among youths.

Its secretary-general Saifuddin Abdullah said in a statement issued here that it was time to try something new like the national service for youths.

Saifuddin said the national service should be made compulsory for all otherwise it would be just like Rakan Muda programme where only the minority was involved.

He said the national service should not be military in nature like those implemented in some countries. -- BERNAMA

RV ABG