

12/12/1998

`Heed call to emulate maintenance culture'

MARANG, Fri. - The armed forces has long practised a "maintenance culture" which has led to most of its assets having a long lifespan.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today the practice of maintaining the armed forces' equipment and weapons in serviceable condition had resulted in most of these being still in service despite some being more than 30 years old.

"As Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said, every department, not just the armed forces, should in fact look after its equipment well.

"As far as we are concerned, such a tradition has long been practised in the armed forces, in which our assets, including those used for combat and search and rescue operations such as the Nuri and Allouette helicopters, are still being used despite some of them being more than 30 years old," he said.

Syed Hamid added that besides prolonging the life-span of these equipment the "maintenance culture" adopted by the armed forces would also safeguard the lives of their members.

He said Dr Mahathir's advice should also be considered by the private sector.

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