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Dr M meets family of Lt Adnan before watching movie

HOW DO YOU DO? ... Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad meeting the son (fifth from left) and grandson (right) of Leftenan Adnan Saidi in front of the cinema hall at Kuala Lumpur City Centre last night before a special screening of the film Lt Adnan.

Mokhtar Adnan, 63, an ex-taxi driver from Seremban, is Leftenan Adnan's eldest son. Mokhtar's son Mohd Yani, 32, is a manager at a transport company.

Also present were (from left) Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Army chief Jeneral Datuk Seri Mohd Hashim Hussein and actor Hairie Othman, who played Leftenan Adnan in the movie.

The special screening for the Prime Minister and wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali was arranged by the Defence Ministry and army headquarters.

The film depicts the gallantry of Leftenan Adnan who died in action while defending the country from Japanese attack.

Leftenan Adnan of the Malay regiment was left in charge of the platoon after his commander died and the rest of the British soldiers withdrew.

In a brief speech before the screening, Md Hashim said the film, which was produced by the Defence Ministry and the army headquarters in collaboration with Grand Brilliance and Paradigm Film Sdn Bhd, was aimed at instilling the virtues of bravery, loyalty and honesty among the nation's youth.

He said while the film seemed to have been well received by families and individuals, interest from the youth was disappointingly lacking.

In this regard, he said the army would deploy special teams to rural areas to spur interest the youth.

After the screening, Dr Mahathir was presented with a RM10,000 donation for the army's New Millennium Fund from Puncak Niaga by its administration and human resource executive director Ibrahim Ismail.

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