

PM: More
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non-bumis
should
join the
military

MALACCA: The Government will continue to appeal to non-bumiputras to join the Armed Forces and show their patriotism and nationalism towards the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that the best way of encouraging more non-bumiputras to join the Armed Forces was to appeal to their sense of patriotism and nationalism.

He said the Government could also consider introducing national service.

"In some countries, whether you are supposed to enter university or have found a good business opportunity, you have to do national service when the time comes.

"We, too, can introduce national service for non-bumiputras or for others who don't join the Armed Forces, but if we want to introduce national service just to encourage non-bumiputras, (it) will be a little difficult."

"But they should participate at all levels and not only aspire to be officers," he added.

Dr Mahathir said one of the reasons why few non-bumiputras join the Armed Forces was the low salary.

Also present at the function were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam.