

Ex-soldiers reminded to remain disciplined

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The same conduct is required in civilian life, says PM

PUTRAJAYA, Tues: Ex-soldiers have been reminded to retain their sense of discipline and other good values learned in the military when they return to civilian life.

As civilians, they also need discipline and hard work in order to succeed, including in the businesses they venture into, and not become too dependent on government aid.

The advice came from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a special gathering and dialogue with more than 400 ex-service personnel here yesterday.

Mahathir said: "If soldiers can do crazy things like jumping from aircraft I see no reason why they cannot be daring enough to succeed outside.

"I am sure those soldiers (who jumped from aircraft) did it with commitment and only after good training and therefore the same is required of you."

He said they should not feel neglected as the govern-

ment has not forgotten their services and provided all means and programmes for post-retirement employment.

He added: "However, some programmes laid out for you failed either due to weak planning or you were not prepared to change to a more competitive civilian lifestyle.

"It is about time we ask why we failed and not to allow yourself to be too pampered with assistance."

Mahathir said military service in Malaysia is unique as it is one of the few countries in the region where people joined voluntarily to become soldiers and contributed greatly to the nation's peace and stability.

Praising ex-soldiers for their service to the country and devotion to their duties, he called on them to play a part in promoting the military as a career.

In the hour-long dialogue that followed, Mahathir fielded questions and listened to views raised.