

## Mahathir urges ex-servicemen to venture into business

**BANGI, Mon:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on former servicemen and policemen today to venture into business and economic activities.

He said the government is sincere in ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary skills and training to enable them to succeed in business.

"Many are not inclined to venture into business as they are not interested in the area," he told reporters after attending a gathering of about 5,000 former servicemen and policemen at Universiti Tenaga Nasional here.

Mahathir said the government has identified business ventures that they can be involved in under the franchise programme.

Earlier, he urged the former servicemen and policemen to acquire new skills upon leaving the security forces to increase their income level.

Responding to Malaysian Ex-Serviceman Association president Datuk Muhamad Ghani's call earlier to increase the pension of ex-servicemen, Mahathir said the government will consider the proposal but "being dependant on pensions will not improve their economic well-being".

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