

Fund-raising drive to help out our servicemen

Nst 27 OCT 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. Three major events have been drawn up to raise funds for the National Heroes and Defence Trust Fund to help injured security personnel or family members of those killed during active duty or operations.

They are the Malaysian Armed Forces/Royal Malaysian Police Combined Band display at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil, a charity dinner and musical night and a charity golf tournament.

Armed Forces Assistant Chief of Staff of the personnel services division Datuk Mohd Anwar Mohd Nor said the band display would also see the Singapore and Brunei Armed Forces bands taking part.

"To spice up the night, we will also have several top local artistes," he said, adding that tickets priced at RM10 for adults and RM5 each for children would be sold to the public.

He said the NHDTF was set up in 1984.

Its first donation drive was held only last year where about RM4 million was collected.

The NHDTF is a merger of the National Defence Fund (NDF) which was set up in 1964 and the National Heroes Welfare Trust Fund (NHWTF).

Both are managed by two different organisations with the Defence Ministry managing the NDF and the Public Trustee handling the NHWTF.

The NHDTF is managed by a board of directors comprising 19 members chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Public Trustee is the secretariat for the fund and it also deals with the fund's investments.

The fund disburses aid in the form of ex-gratia payments, subsistence allowances, education allowances and orthopaedic equipment and its maintenance to men who die or suffer from injuries during active service.

Between 1980 and this year, about RM1.9 million had been disbursed from the fund to deserving cases with members of the armed forces or their dependents receiving RM783,000.

The cases included 444 death cases including five due to booby traps and 439 who suffered injuries during service.

For serious injury cases, a total of RM1.5 million was disbursed between 1980 and October this year to 91 personnel who sustained injuries caused by booby traps and another 419 injured while on active service.

A total of RM993,000 was channelled to personnel for the purchase of artificial limbs and orthopaedic equipment since 1995 until October this year.

Mohd Anwar said the rate of assistance to the deserving recipients was increased in 1994 where in death cases, the amount of ex-gratia paid to the dependent was raised to RM18,000 while in cases of injuries, the payment ranged from RM4,000 to RM21,000 depending on the severity of the injury and for minor injuries, the payout was RM600.

Cheques or bank drafts for the fund should be made payable to "Tabung Amanah Perwira dan Pertahanan Negara.

They should be crossed and sent to Jabatan Rekod dan Pencen ATM, Bahagian Perkhidmatan Anggota Markas Angkatan Tentera Malaysia, Kementerian Pertahanan, Jalan Padang Tembak, 50634 Kuala Lumpur. (Untuk Perhatian: Lt-Kol Nazri Abu Bakar).