

27 JAN 2001

Servicemen-Mahathir

EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION WELCOMES DR MAHATHIR'S ASSURANCE

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Ex-Servicemen's Association (PBTM) today welcomed assurance by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the government would honour and fulfil all pledges made to armed forces personnel.

Its president, Senator Datuk Muhammad bin Abdul Ghani said it reflected the government's appreciation of the contributions and sacrifices made by armed forces personnel.

"This will also generate interest among the young to join the armed forces," he told reporters after opening a PBTM Gerak Wira leadership course at Kem Kijang here.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said this included allowances and other benefits which had been promised but not implemented in appreciation of the contributions and sacrifices of armed forces personnel to national peace and security.

Muhammad hoped that the allowances and benefits could be expedited since they armed forces personnel had been waiting a long time for them.

He also urged the Defence Ministry to review the activities of Perwira Niaga Malaysia (Pernama) which he said had deviated from the objective of its formation.

Many complaints had been received regarding the price of goods sold at Pernama outlets, he said.

He also suggested that Perbadanan Hal Ehwal Bekas Angkatan Tentera (Perhebat) set up training and business centre in every state for the benefit of ex-servicemen.

--BERNAMA

ZI BD ABG