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Soldiers' allowances review welcomed

MALACCA, Sat. - The Defence Ministry today welcomed the Government's effort to look into the welfare of soldiers, including reviewing their allowances.

Following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement on the matter yesterday, Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Shafie Apdal said it would augur well for the morale of serving soldiers.

He said although the Ministry had submitted a proposal for a review of the allowances several years ago, it could not demand that all the proposals be met by the Government.

"The Defence Ministry is not the only one seeking a review of such allowances as other ministries and agencies are also asking for the same."

He was speaking after visiting the army's Special Force headquarters in Sungai Udang today.

Meanwhile, in Kota Baru, the National Ex-Servicemen Association thanked the Prime Minister for his concern.

Opening a leadership course at Kem Kijang, its president, Senator Datuk Muhammad Abdul Ghani, said the statement by Dr Mahathir reflected the Government's appreciation for the sacrifices made by soldiers. "I believe this will attract more youths to join the armed forces."

In another development, Muhammad called on the Defence Ministry to review the management of Perwira Niaga Malaysia (Pernama) as prices were higher than at other retail outlets.

He said such a situation defeated the objective for which Pernama was set up.

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