

27 JAN 2001

Najib-Allowances

STUDY ON SEVERAL ALLOWANCES FOR ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL IN FINAL PHASE,
SAYS NAJIB

PEKAN, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- The study on several allowances for armed forces personnel is in the final phase and expected to be completed soon, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today.

"We have forwarded some to the Public Service Department (PDS) but there are others, part of the whole proposal, still being studied," he told reporters after a meeting with wives of fishermen in Kampung Pasir Panjang, here.

He said actually the ministry was ready on several matters involving allowances for armed forces personnel, some of which had been approved and included in the recent national budget while others still being considered by the PSD.

In this connection, an internal committee had been set up to come out with a scheme of service that would be reasonable but not compromising the service principles.

"We hope the government will consider it. I will be meeting the Prime Minister soon with proposals for consideration," he said.

Yesterday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government would honour and fulfil all pledges made to armed forces personnel, including allowances and other benefits which had been promised but not implemented in appreciation of their contributions and sacrifices to national peace and security.

Najib said the armed forces personnel were very happy and greatly appreciated Dr Mahathir's high regard for their services especially sacrifices during the communist insurgency in the country.

He said generally the government was ready to consider several matters including a housing programme for armed forces personnel.

On politics, Najib who is an Umno vice-president, said it was up to the Umno leadership to determine the agenda for the Malay unity talk with PAS.

He said Umno would adopt an open attitude as long as the Malays were united, "...not necessarily that PAS must be together with Umno in a coalition government but other forms of understand and cooperation."

He was asked to comment on statement by PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat who said he would not allow the party to join the Barisan Nasional (BN).

-- BERNAMA

ROS ABG