

Najib: Cabinet to discuss national service proposal

STAR 30 OCT 2002

KUALA LUMPUR: The proposed "modified" type of national service for the youth in the country will be discussed by the Cabinet, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said that what was suggested by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad might not be similar to the one used in Singapore, which requires the republic's youth to fulfil a two-year military service when they reach 18-

years-old.

Dr Mahathir had suggested that a "modified" national service be introduced to instil a greater sense of patriotism and self-discipline among the country's youth.

"We are thinking on a national service which concentrates on skills training for youths," Najib told reporters after receiving a donation of RM99,000 in scholarship awards for children of armed forces personnel at

the Defence Ministry yesterday.

The amount was handed over by Sepang Institute of Technology president Dr Mak Chai.

"But we will discuss this in the Cabinet meeting first," he added.

Earlier, Najib said a total of 15 students would receive RM6,000 each to finance their two-year diploma courses in electronics and mechanical engineering at the institute.