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PPP supports national service plan

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The PPP today supported the Government's plan for compulsory national service, saying it would enhance patriotism among youths.

Its president, Datuk M. Kayveas, said there should be no exemption and even women should be included.

"If we allow exemptions for certain classes, then there would be lots of complications," he said, adding that only those with certified medical conditions should be considered.

Speaking after chairing the party's supreme council meeting, he said parents should also encourage their children to participate in national service.

He said the supreme council also unanimously welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's invitation to Opposition parties to join Barisan Nasional.

He said Opposition parties, which until today did not have a clear political direction, should seriously consider Dr Mahathir's offer.

He said the Opposition's attitude was a sign of immaturity, weakness and insecurity.

"Everyone should take time to think and be positive and progressive for the sake of the country," he added.

Dr Mahathir, who made the offer a week ago, said the invitation was open to all parties.