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Najib-National Service

VARIOUS FACTORS TO BE DECIDED BEFORE IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL SERVICE

PEKAN, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Various factors have to be taken into account before the national service can be implemented in Malaysia, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the national service was good to instil patriotism among Malaysians but the government would have to consider the format and other features most suited in the country.

"National service is a good idea to instil patriotism and national strength apart from forging national unity and integration.

"What can be considered is the form of national service most suitable for our country as there are several forms and features of the national service," he told reporters at the Orang Asli village, Kampung Bangkong, Bandar 2 Paloh Hinai near here today.

Yesterday the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he would bring to the Cabinet's attention suggestions for national service in the country as it could instil a greater sense of patriotism among Malaysians.

The suggestions were made by social activist Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye and Gelang Patah MP Chang See Ten at the National Patriotism Congress Dialogue held by Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and National Civics Bureau in Bangi.

However the Prime Minister indicated that if the national service was implemented in Malaysia, it would have to be modified and not be too military-like.

Najib said the national service would not necessary be military training as this could not be the most suited for the country's needs and interest.

He said the national service could have negative implications as if it was not properly screened, military training might be given to those with other motives and this would jeopardise the country's security.

-- BERNAMA

HIS ZUL