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Hishammuddin-Service

NATIONAL SERVICE MAY FACE SHORTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS, SAYS HISHAMMUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- The proposal to introduce national service for youths in the country may face shortage of manpower to participate in the programme, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said today.

In welcoming the proposal, Hishammuddin, who is also Umno Youth chief, said the government need to consider various factors before implementing the programme.

"We will study whether the national service proposal is reasonable and its implications in terms of costs, implementation and returns," he told reporters after opening the Rakan Muda's Jati Diri programme at Merdeka Square.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he would forward the national service proposal to the Cabinet.

He had said the Government would study the possibility of introducing a "modified" national service for the country's youths in an effort to instil a greater sense of patriotism and self-discipline among them.

Hishammuddin said although Malaysia did not implement national service, the social service programme being carried out now had the same objectives.

He said the government had decided to increase the number of participants of the social service programme to 20,000 a year following overwhelming response.

Initially, the intake was only 1,000, he added.

-- BERNAMA

CCB KHY RI RZS TS