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Najib-Tanks (Pix)

NUMBER OF TANKS YET TO BE DECIDED, SAYS NAJIB

KUALA LUMPUR, March 26 (Bernama) -- Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the government has yet to decide on the number of PT 91 tanks to be acquired from Poland.

He said his ministry had not decided on the total number of tanks to be purchased to equip four squadrons of the Army Royal Armoured Corps.

He said it was still too early to talk on the quantity and costs because negotiations must be held between the Malaysian and Polish governments, he told reporters after launching the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) Desa Tun Hussein Onn Community Service Centre Programme (K-Famili Program) here.

"We must wait for the negotiations to be held and look at the offer from Poland first," he said.

Meanwhile, Najib said that besides Poland, Malaysia would also buy military equipment from other countries, adding "we have not shortlisted the countries and the equipment to be acquired yet."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had announced the government's decision to buy the tanks concerned while on a three-day visit to Poland last week.

Meanwhile on the "K-Famili Program", Najib said it aimed to promote a culture of knowledge and quality living among military families.

The pilot project will cost RM2.5 million and will involve military families at the Married Quarters at Desa Tun Hussein Onn.

"Through the K-famili, we intend to churn out military family members who are highly knowledgeable and can spread interest to love knowledge especially among the young generation," he said.

The K-famili Programme also demonstrates the government's concern over the sacrifice made by the soldiers who frequently move from one location to another because this affects the academic performance of their children.

"The frequent transfers contribute to the academic performance of military children which is lower compared to the children of other families. The K-Famili Program is seen as capable of generating interest and skill of military families and their children with the facilities provided," he said.

He said various activities would be carried out under the programme such as motivational talks and additional classes.

He said the programmes to be implemented with the collaboration of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) would be extended to other camps.

"We leave it to UPM to make an assessment and if it is effective, we will build the facilities at the other camps with the cooperation of other agencies in the vicinity," he said.

The Desa Tun Hussein Onn Community Service provides various facilities such as IT centre, tuition and library, counselling and gymnasium.

-- BERNAMA

KK AHH MOZ AO