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Of fairness and our Armed Forces

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LATELY there have been reports in the local media that there are not enough non-Malays in the Armed Forces, as they constitute less than 10 per cent of officers.

The reports state that this is tantamount to non-Malays shirking their national duty, and they further state that non-Malays lack a sense of sacrifice and patriotism.

The Defence Ministry, and the media, should first conduct a thorough study of the causes for the low enlistment before laying such serious charges.

They should look at factors like changes in the percentage over the decades, fair and representative promotion prospects, and fair access to benefits and privileges.

Educational Welfare Research Foundation is in total agreement that true unity can only be achieved if the armed forces reflect our multi-racial composition.

However, we cannot see this happening if the public sector continues to maintain the status quo, i.e., more than 90 per cent of public sector employees continue to be Malays.

What is needed is fairness in everything. Even as we demand that others be fair to us, we must be fair to others. As Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently reminded us, others too have spilt their blood