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Najib-Service

NATIONAL SERVICE UNIFORM, LOGO AND SONG APPROVED

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet yesterday approved the uniform, logo and song for the national service to be introduced next February, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

The uniform, logo and song for the programme would be unveiled soon, said Najib, who chairs the Cabinet Committee on National Service.

"About 100,000 people (18-year-old boys and girls) will be involved in stages in the national service, with each stage handling between 15,000 and 20,000 youths," he told reporters after representing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to deliver the keynote address at the Malaysia-China Business Conference 2003 here.

Najib said 100,000 of the 450,000 18-year-old youths would be randomly picked by computers for the programme.

"The first batch will start the six-month training in February," he said.

It is compulsory for those selected to participate in the programme, but exemptions can be granted to anyone certified as unfit by a panel of doctors recognised by the government.

National service will be conducted at 54 centres, and only some 30 percent of the training involves the military aspects.

Najib also clarified that the draft of the memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation with China did not involve joint military training.

He said it involved only non-military training and the use of modern technology.

-- BERNAMA

AT MUN YBY