

Rosmah defends National Service programme
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The National Service Training Programme has proven to be a long-term human capital investment immeasurable in material or cash terms and not a government project to seek popularity or garner support, Rosmah Mansor said today.

The wife of the prime minister said this success had repudiated all the negative accusations, allegations, criticisms and comments hurled by certain pessimistic quarters at the programme, now into its eighth year.

Rosmah said the government's investment in human capital development such as the National Service Training Programme could not be underestimated because it was intended to develop human capital which could contribute to national development.

"I believe the Defence Ministry, National Service Training Department, the National Service training camps and the relevant agencies have endured many challenges and tribulations in making the programme a success.

"In that context, I congratulate the Defence Ministry, the National Service Training Department and the instructors for having worked hard to ensure that the programme remains successful," she said when launching the 'National Service Training Programme a Catalyst for the 1Malaysia Generation' programme attended by 3,000 National Service participants in Putrajaya.

Defence Minister Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Defence Minister Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad, Chief of Air Force Gen Rodzali Daud, who is acting Chief of Defence Force, and National Service Training Council chairman Dr Tiki Lafe were present at the event.

Programme has improved over time

Rosmah said it must be admitted that various problems cropped up when the National Service Training Programme was introduced, including lack of facilities at the camps and parents' anxiety to allow their children to attend the three-month programme.

However, she added, with the improvements over time and the modules inserted into the training programme, parents became more confident about their children's participation in the programme.

Studies conducted by the National Service Training Department showed the effectiveness of the programme through the evaluation of parents, employers and the people, with 80 percent of the 61,950 respondents agreeing that the programme brought about positive changes to themselves or their children.

Rosmah agreed with the proposed introduction of a new sub-module on Reproductive Health and Social Education, saying it could disseminate knowledge and skills to youngsters who could be easily exposed to unhealthy practices.

She advised all participants of the programme to take advantage of the training and use the

knowledge gained for the good of the community.

- Bernama

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