DAP: Remove quota system in armed forces
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KOTA KINABALU - Kudat DAP chief Alex Wong suggested Monday that the quota system in the armed forces be removed while conditions to join the military be relaxed.

Wong said the quota limit and conditions set were among the reasons explaining the low level of youth participation in the Malaysian armed forces.

Defence Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had last week in Parliament highlighted on the issue of why fewer non-Malays had joined the military which he cited lack of patriotism as one of the reasons.

Wong said, "It is ridiculous to say that if we don't join the armed forces, it means that we don’t love the country..."

"If the conditions are relaxed and there is no quota limit, we believe many people will be keen to join the army. It is better for Sabahans to join the (armed) forces than for them to beg for food in Kuala Lumpur," Wong said in the statement.

According to him, many young applicants who are non-Bumiputeras (especially the Chinese and Rungus people in Kudat) have been rejected from joining the military.

"Everytime there is an intake or recruitment exercise in Kudat, the applicants are rejected. Many of these young people move away to the city or seek jobs in Peninsular Malaysia.

"Why is there such a high rate of rejection of our local applicants? Are we not qualified enough to join the armed forces and police?" he asked.

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