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6 NEW SCHEMES FOR VETERANS

It includes RM1,200 aid for veterans without pension

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THERE was all round good news for Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) veterans yesterday after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced six new schemes to improve their welfare.

This included an annual assistance of RM1,200 for non-pensionable veterans and an annuity scheme.

Najib, who shared the good news with more than 15,000 MAF veterans at the MAF Veterans' Assembly in conjunction with the launch of the Warriors' Fund 2017, announced the Bantuan Bakti Negara (BBN) aid scheme, which would become the initial aid from the government specifically for non-pensionable MAF veterans.

Najib said the BBN scheme was an extension of the scheme for MAF veterans; namely the Malaysia Non-Pensionable Veterans Scheme, which was introduced in 2013.

"The introduction of the BBN scheme is a new mechanism for the government to assist the low-income and non-pensionable MAF veterans without burdening the existing government financial sources," he said to loud applause from the audience.

Present were Najib's wife, Datin



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak greeting Malaysian Armed Forces veterans at the Mines International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Seri Kembangan yesterday. On his right is Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein. BERNAMA PIC

Seri Rosmah Mansor, who is Patron of the Warriors' Fund Campaign, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Armed Forces Chief General Tan Sri Raja Affendi Raja Mohamed Noor and MAF Veterans Association president Senator Admiral Tan Sri Anwar Mohd Nor.

Najib said the criteria to receive the aid would be based on the same criteria for recipients of the Malaysia People's Aid (BRIM), targeting those in the bottom 40 per cent household income group.

"This means that the recipients are those who qualify for

BRIM," he said, adding that RM1,200 would be given to 66,000 non-pensionable MAF veterans based on the list of BRIM recipients.

As for veterans without pension who are not BRIM recipients, they will get RM600, provided they are aged 60 and above.

It is estimated that more than 10,959 veterans without pension, aged 60 and above, will benefit from the BBN initiative.

Najib, who is a former defence minister, also announced the Veterans' Annuity Scheme (SAVE) for existing armed forces personnel.

The scheme, which is an upgrade of the MAF Services Scheme, will benefit personnel who choose to retire early.

They will receive monthly payments despite not being eligible for pension.

The prime minister said the contribution to the SAVE scheme would be in the savings account and would give monthly benefits to the veterans, and could also be handed over to eligible next of kin upon the death of the veteran.

"The BBN scheme and SAVE are meant to look after the welfare of the armed forces

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