

**Najib unveils seven helpful initiatives for ex-soldiers**  
**The Star Online**  
**16 December, 2012**  
**By IVAN LOH**

KUALA KANGSAR: The Government has announced seven initiatives for army veterans to improve their socio-economic standing and welfare.

These include providing job opportunities and entrepreneurship guidance for them under the 1Malaysia Veteran Recognition Programme, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

"The programme is initiated in recognition of their contributions and sacrifices for the country.

"This is another product through the National Blue Ocean Strategy where each individual, regardless of background, will get benefits," he said at the launch of the programme at SMK Clifford here yesterday.

The seven initiatives are 1Malaysia Veterans Home Repair, 1Malaysia Veterans Access Point, Veteran Hiring Programme, Entrepreneurship Support, Enhancing Industry Acceptance of Perhebat Trainings, 1Malaysia Veterans Family Programme and 1Malaysia Privilege Card.

Najib said that under the hiring programme, government-linked companies and some private firms would offer jobs to the former army men.

"About 4,300 jobs will be made available. I urge ex-army personnel to register themselves with the Veterans Affairs Department," he said, adding that they could also join the police force.

"Not only will they get their pension, they will also get new jobs."

On the 1Malaysia Privilege Card, Najib said it would be extended to the veterans.

He said the card was launched in August for army personnel.

"Those with the former army identity cards can use them as the privilege card," he said.

Under the Veterans Access Point initiative, Najib said 1Malaysia Veterans One Stop Centres (Pusat Sehenti) will be initiated.

"Former army men will also enjoy various services in the form of assistance or information, including facilities at the centres," he said.

Najib said the Government had also set aside about RM3.5mil to be distributed to veterans who wished to start their own business under the entrepreneurship support initiative.

"The Government will also offer some franchising opportunities as a starting point for those interested," he said.

Under the homes repair programme, 49 houses had been repaired or built this year.

"We target to build or repair 100 houses next year," he said.

Copyright © 1995-2012 Star Publications (M) Bhd

Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/12/16/nation/12467131&sec=nation>