

# Dr M: Joining Civil Defence Force good for youths

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**LANGKAWI:** Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on young people to join the Malaysian Civil Defence Force (APM) as it has not only become a benchmark of volunteerism in the country, but being a volunteer can also help them to develop good values and positive attitudes.

“Positive attitudes like being responsible, unselfish, brave, highly disciplined, friendly and independent can be developed by being a volunteer.

“It will also enable them to have some sense of awareness and prevent them from getting involved in social problems, while at the same time influencing their friends with those good values and positive attitudes,” he said when launching the Langkawi district APM complex here yesterday.

Also present were Kedah deputy state assembly Speaker and Ayer Hangat assemblyman Juhari Bulat, Kuah assemblyman Mohd Firdaus Ahmad, APM chief commissioner Datuk Roslan Wahab and Kedah APM director Lt-Kol Awang Askandar Ampuan Yaacob.

The construction of the RM25.5mil complex, which has various facilities and a six-storey training tower on the 1.6ha site, began in 2016 and was completed on Jan 13 this year.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir, who is Langkawi MP, also shared his experience participating in the Civil Defence Corps during his younger years in the 1950s.



**Learning curve:** Dr Mahathir watching students taking part in an activity with APM personnel during the launch of the APM Complex in Jalan Ayer Hangat, Langkawi. — Bernama

“The main reason I shared my experience is because I know the dangerous risks faced by APM members when they are discharging their duties.

“Maybe the risks are not there all the time, but there are times the risks are very high,” he said.

Dr Mahathir also gave assurance on the government’s commitment to providing support and assistance to APM, be it in the form of financial

aid or equipment.

“We want the APM to have the proper equipment for their job. Besides, the APM has also proven itself to be an agency capable of luring membership from various races and becoming an exemplary model of interracial cooperation in the country.

“This is important because when facing difficulties, emergency situations or disasters, racial cooperation

is important, especially in rebuilding the affected areas,” he said.

Dr Mahathir also launched the permanent operating procedure for the APM Baywatch squad. — Bernama

Watch the video  
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