

# Positive outlook for army vets having jobs

KOTA KINABALU: The outlook is good for army veterans to return to civilian life with jobs.

A closer collaboration between the Armed Forces Veteran Affairs Corporation (Perhebat) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (Sedia) and other related agencies is in the offing to ease the transition of former soldiers into civilians.

Head director of Perhebat Ahmad Tajudin Jaafar said the organisation will continue to pursue better ways to help armed forces veterans look for jobs, funds, grants and technical services for their transition process.

"We have signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with UMS in 2016 and recently, we have considered new fields to be explored.

"Among the fields for retirees and veterans are marine industry as navies have technical expertise in the field; livestock; agriculture; aquaculture and tourism, which UMS would be of help," he said.

He added that a close work with Sedia would also benefit the veterans as the agency provides job opportunities apart from financial funds that would help the veterans venture into small businesses.

"Sedia is a complete cycle of what we want. It is a State government's company that works with Teraju under Sabah Development Corridor which is good, (it is) something that we should explore," he said.

Perhebat is an organization established by the Ministry of Defense Malaysia aimed to implement quality training pro-

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Tajudin (front row, fourth left), Mazlan (fifth right), Rosdin (centre) and Zarina (fourth right) in a group photo with armed forces personnel and Perhebat management team.

grammes and support services for retired and retiring armed forces personnel to prepare them to embark on second careers.

According to Tajudin, veterans who opted for on the job trainings (LSK) during their transition period are prone to future challenges as such training method does not provide any form or certificate or skills while some companies would not offer post-training jobs.

"A study shows that around

70 to 80 per cent veterans who chose LSK were not given job opportunities after their trainings; this group of veterans would face difficulties.

"If you choose to go with the decision, make sure to find companies that will provide jobs after finishing the trainings," he said.

He noted that Sabah is a land filled with opportunities, adding that business on wheel is another prospect that has not been fully explored yet by Sabahans.

He added that food truck business is one of the examples that could go far as it brings products to consumers which he said was the beauty of business on wheel.

"The way we help is by working together with UMS and food truck entrepreneurs. It is a new phenomenon in Malaysia and Sabah has just started so this is your chance.

"Sabah is a tourism State; domestic and international tourists keep rushing in to Sabah and one of the most promising products is food," said Tajudin.

He reminded veterans to make their choices with full consideration and hoped that the assistance and guidance provided by Perhebat would open their minds to make the best choice when they retire.

Tajudin was speaking at the

closing ceremony of Perhebat Pre Transition Course Series 4 2017 at UMS Biotechnology Research Institute yesterday.

A total of 75 armed forces took part in the five-day course to prepare them for retirement and service completion where talks and guidance were given to provide wider views on their transition towards civilian life.

"The transition is the most important phase; it must have been difficult for you to start anew whether to work for an employer or start small businesses to become millionaires," said Tajudin.

One of the personnel, Gilbert Alfred, 40, said the course was helpful as it opened up their views about future prospects.

"It was very beneficial for future retirees to open our views and notions before entering civilian life in the future.

"We were exposed to various opportunities especially in terms of self management and future careers after we retire," said Gilbert who has served in the army for almost 20 years.

Also present were Sabah Perhebat Manager Mazlan Ahmad, Perhebat Director of Human Resource and Administration Division, Major Rosdin Mohammad, and Acting Director of Biotechnology Research Institute of UMS, Dr Zarina Amin.