

EX-MILITARY PERSONNEL

VETERANS START AS MRSM WARDENS

If programme proves effective, it will be expanded to all 57 MRSMs

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FORMER military personnel started work as dormitory wardens at Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) schools yesterday under a six-month pilot project to curb violence and bullying.

Mara chairman Datuk Dr

Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki said the wardens began duties at MRSM Balik Pulau and MRSM Besut.

He said if the programme proves effective, Mara plans to expand it to all 57 MRSM campuses nationwide.

"This is a six-month pilot project, an important initiative to address bullying, which must be eradicated, and to break the cycle of violence," he said on Facebook.

"*Insyallah*, after six months, a study on the effectiveness of this initiative will be conducted with the Social Research Institute of Universiti Putra Malaysia.

"If the results are positive, Mara will extend this initiative across all 57 MRSM campuses."

Asyraf said teachers' workload did not allow them to carry out additional responsibilities as wardens.

"Many, including teachers and the public, agree that warden duties are no longer suitable to be handled part-time by teachers,



Former soldier Azrol Lizan Mohamad Rosli starting his job as a warden at MRSM Balik Pulau in Penang yesterday. NSTP PIC BY WAN NABIL NASIR

with additional allowances that do not match the responsibility.

"Teachers' core duties also limit their ability to commit to tasks requiring attention beyond academic hours."

He said the hiring of retired uniformed personnel as full-time wardens would be subject to strict screening and governed by clear guidelines.

"It is hoped this will benefit student development and, most importantly, curb bullying."

On April 17, it was reported that Mara would recruit retired policemen and military veterans as full-time wardens under a pilot project aimed boosting curbing bullying and enhancing student discipline at MRSM boarding schools.

This was part of Mara's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy on bullying.

The move followed the expulsion of seven students after a viral video showed them bullying another student.