

PM to police: Have good ties with public

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the police today to always strive for good ties with the public because such a relationship will benefit them.

He said a good relationship would also enable the police to carry out their duties smoothly and satisfactorily.

The people would also be more sympathetic to their work and give the police their fullest co-operation in their fight against the enemy and crime, he said.

"In times of difficulties, the public will also be more willing to provide useful information to the police," Dr Mahathir said at a Police Day parade here to celebrate the force's 179th anniversary.

Also at the parade were Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Haniff Omar and his deputy

Datuk Mahmood Haji Nasir.

He also impressed on the men on the public's need for a responsible police force that could enforce the laws fairly and properly.

"As such, public opinion on the police force is most important. In this respect, every police personnel must carry out his duties in a professional manner," he said.

He said a well-disciplined force would earn not only "the public's high respects" but also their confidence in police work.

He also reminded the people not to forget the services and sacrifices of policemen who were either injured or killed while protecting the country.

Dr Mahathir later presented letters of commendations to the widows of four policemen killed in the Memali incident.

He also presented letters of commendation to seven other policemen in appreciation of their services during the incident.