

PM: It's police system for Prisons Dept

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PETALING JAYA, Thurs. — The Prisons Department's administrative system will be restructured along the lines of the police, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

This was the reason for the appointment of Director of Internal Security and Public Order Datuk Mohamed Yassin Jaafar as the new Prisons Director-General, said the Prime Minister.

Several PTD (Administrative and Diplomatic Service) officers would be moved to the department, he told newsmen at Subang airport.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said the appointment of Datuk Yassin and the other officers was on a temporary basis although no time frame had been set.

"After they have put things in order we will appoint prisons officers to

their posts again ... they will have reasonable time to accomplish this."

He said several aspects of the Prisons Department's structure needed to be tightened.

"We know there are weaknesses ... to find out exactly what they are, it is better to have somebody go in and investigate."

Dr Mahathir said an "outsider" would have a fresh view of the system and new ideas.

He said the police administrative system was chosen because it was a disciplined force and a uniformed service usually had rules which promoted strict discipline.

"We do not want to use the army structure because we felt that the police are more knowledgeable in civilian affairs."

Dr Mahathir said the prisons revamp would involve all areas.