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LEAD Agong-Police

KING CONFIDENT OF CONTINUED EXCELLENT POLICE SERVICE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar today expressed confidence of continued excellent service by the police force despite the added workload that comes with national progress.

Policing was no longer confined to fighting crimes but now required the force to also deal with social ills, smuggling and influx of illegal immigrants, among others, he said.

His majesty said the police leadership was constantly looking for ways to improve the performance of officers and men of the force.

"I'm confident that with the changes and innovations introduced to make the force compatible with changing environments, the police will continue to give exemplary service in line with the country's advancement," Tuanku Jaafar said.

The King was addressing officers and men at the presentation of colours to the Royal Malaysia Police, the second in 36 years, in recognition of the sacrifices of officers and men of the force to the nation.

A total of 1,967 officers and men led by ACP Mohd Sabtu Osman mounted a parade to mark the event at the Police Training Centre, here.

It coincided with the official renaming of the Police Field Force (PFF) as the General Operations Force (GOF), the largest police unit with paramilitary function.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister, and the deputy ministers Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali and Datuk Ong Ka Ting were present.

The event also marked the official dissolution of the PFF's two elite units, the Special Action Force (SAF) and the '69 Commando Unit (VAT 69).

They are now combined into the Special Operations Force (SOF).

The police emblem on the new colours also underwent a change with a lion's head being replaced with that of a tiger, symbolising strength, bravery and fighting spirit.

Tuanku Jaafar presented colours to the GOF, the SOF, the Marine Police, the Federal Reserve Unit (FRU), the Police Air Wing and 17 battalions under the GOF.

His majesty later blessed the police's main colours, presented for the second time in the force's 190-year-old history.

It first received the colours 36 years ago to the day, on Nov 11 in 1961, from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong then, Tuanku Syed Putra. -- BERNAMA

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