

encies.

He said the police came upon the gang when they tried to break into a second house in the housing estate at about 2.30am.

They had earlier broken into another in the area.

Abdul Hamid said the police suspected the gang members to be drug addicts as one of the two shot dead had a tube of white substance believed to heroin.

He said the gang would only strike at certain times based on a horoscope recovered from them.

The gang is said to be active in Seberang Perai and neighbouring states. -- BERNAMA

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28 FEB 1997

Rewards

RECOMMENDATIONS ON REWARD TO LOYAL EMPLOYEES READY

PETALING JAYA, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- The Human Resources Ministry has come up with a proposal paper on rewards for public and private sector employees who have served for at least 25 years.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said the proposal paper was being circulated to the relevant ministries and would soon be presented to the Cabinet for endorsement.

"I think, soon we will be able to present it to the Cabinet and details on the proposal will be announced later," he told reporters after launching the skills and career development scheme for non-executive employees of Telekom Malaysia Berhad at a hotel in Subang Jaya near here.

Lim said the proposal paper was prepared following a directive by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad some time ago.

"It is to encourage them (the employees) to stay on and be loyal to the company they work in," he said.

Meanwhile, Telekom Malaysia chief executive Datuk Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali said the skills and career development scheme was designed to meet the changes in technology in the telecommunications industry.

Mohamed Said said he envisaged that the normal telephone sets would be obsolete over the next decade and the scheme was necessary to equip and prepare the employees with new skills.

Telekom Malaysia has set a target that by the year 2000, some 60 per cent of its non-executive employees would have reached multi-skill level.

According to Mohamed Said, under the scheme, non-executive employees would also be given opportunities after undergoing training up to a certain level. -- BERNAMA

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28 FEB 1997

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE TO FURTHER ENHANCE US-MALAYSIA MILITARY TIES (With pix)

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and the United States plan to set up a high-level joint committee to further enhance military ties between the two countries.

Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said that the proposed joint committee could facilitate discussions and cooperation in

the defence field.

He was speaking to reporters after a meeting with Vice Chairman of the US Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Joseph W.Ralston at the Defence Ministry here today.

Abdullah said that Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, who will be visiting the US next month, is expected to include the proposal in his talks.

Ralston and his de