

PM wants cops to be ahead of high-tech criminals

By THOMAS SOON

LENGGONG: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Bukit Aman to have its own hi-tech and information technology experts so that it can stay one step ahead of those who use computers and advanced equipment to commit crimes.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the Prime Minister, who is also Home Minister, wanted the police force not only to upgrade its technology skills, but also to be in the forefront of development.

Tajol Rosli said that such expertise was vital in view of the increasing number of hi-tech crimes, including those via the Internet.

He said that other hi-tech crimes included forgery of identity cards, credit cards, ATM cards and passports.

He said that experts were needed to collect the right kind of evidence and trace criminals quickly without the assistance of bodies such as the Malaysian Institute of Micro-electronic Systems or Jaring, and the National Registration or Immigration Departments.

Speaking to reporters after attending a briefing on the latest developments in Hulu Perak district on Saturday, he said that graduates could also be sent for further training so that they could excel in the field.

Tajol Rosli said the role of experts was even more pertinent in view of the potential forgery of the proposed multi-purpose national cards, that would be used by all Malaysians in the next century.

"In future, police must be equipped to determine forged documents without depending on the departments," he added.