

23/08/1998

## Upgrade IT expertise, police urged

LENGGONG, Sat. - The police have been directed to upgrade their information technology capabilities so that they will be able to effectively counter a wide range of criminal activities which are getting more sophisticated each day.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the police must be equipped with IT expertise so that they would not have problems detecting crime.

Criminals who use IT expertise include those who commit commercial crime such as those who clone cellular telephones and falsify identification documents, identity cards and passports.

Tajol Rosli said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister, had already instructed the police to upgrade their IT expertise so that they would be able to face "crime of the new millennium".

He was speaking to reporters after a briefing on the development of Hulu Perak by the Hulu Perak District Office.

Also present was Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Nazri Aziz who is Member of Parliament for Chenderoh.

Tajol Rosli, who is MP for Grik, said that in terms of expertise, even though there were IT graduates in the police force and those who were knowledgeable in IT, the number was inadequate.

He said the police had begun recruiting fresh IT graduates.

"We must recruit those proficient in IT so that they have the knowledge to guide others. And for IT graduates who have been recruited, they will be sent for further training.

"The police must be one step ahead of the criminals with knowledge to gather sufficient evidence to convict them in court," he said, adding that Malaysia lost more than RM100 million in 1996 due to cloning of cellular phones.

In this context, he urged cellular phone companies to improve the safety features in analogue phones.

On whether there was a need to seek the help of Mimos Berhad to train police recruits on IT, Tajol Rosli said it not necessary as the force had its own pool of experts.

On Internet rumour mongering, Tajol Rosli said the Home Ministry would continue to monitor any kind of malicious rumours that threatened national security.

He reiterated that IT was needed especially in the 21st century when the Government planned to introduce multi-featured identification documents that included access to automated teller machines and bank accounts.

(END)