

# Crime prevention council under study

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Govt depts, NGOs and academicians to sit on the board

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**SHAH ALAM, Mon:** The establishment of a National Crime Prevention Council is being proposed to help reduce the crime rate.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Maj said today a working paper will be submitted to the Home Ministry soon for immediate attention.

Norian said the relevant government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGO) and academicians will be asked to sit on the council and help to find ways in reducing the number of crimes.

The council, he added, will

also help to formulate policies while presenting ideas and suggestions to the government.

"At present, crime prevention lies solely with the police, as what many people think, but it is actually an integrated effort between the relevant departments and the public," he said after addressing a senior police officers conference here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad delivered a keynote address at the conference, which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

For instance, said Norian, criminal activities which involved students will need the attention from the education department, such as coun-

selling and monitoring.

When asked if the council will overlap with the role of the Malaysian Criminal Prevention Foundation (MCPF), Norian said the role of MCPF will differ from that of the proposed council.

"The council will be fully funded by the government while the MCPF is a NGO and while MCPF can give suggestions, it cannot delegate powers to the police to act on any matters," he said.

On the meeting with the prime minister today, Norian said Mahathir has given suggestions on how the police department can improve its services and contribution to the public.

"The prime minister also inspired us on how to overcome the daily problems while carrying out our duties

in public while giving his views on the expectation of the people on the police," he said.

On the fate of the seven Internal Security Act detainees, Norian said it has yet to be determined as it is still under investigation.

"It's still at the investigation stage and I can't say anything much at present," he said.

Those detained are Parti Keadilan Nasional youth chief Mohd Ezam Mohd Nor, youth exco member Abdul Ghani Harun, vice-president Tian Chua, and supreme council member N. Gobalakrishnan, activist Hishamuddin Rais, Jemaah Islah Malaysia president Saari Sungib and "Free Anwar" campaign director Raja Petra Raja Kamaruddin.