

SUN 18 APR 2001

## PM concerned over number of unsolved murder cases

**PUTRAJAYA, Tues:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed concern over the number of serious cases, especially murders, that are still unsolved.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim said today the prime minister does not want the trend to spread and has asked that follow-up action on the matter be stepped up.

Rais was speaking to reporters after receiving a courtesy call from Singapore Attorney-General Chan Sek Keong and his delegation at his office here.

He said the decision was made two weeks ago at the cabinet meeting and it was agreed that foreign experts will be used as consultants while carrying out investigations pertaining to the unsolved murder cases.

Rais said a meeting will be held with the police, Chemistry Department, Attorney-General's Chambers and the Forensic Department to map out strategies in a bid to solve the murder cases.

Of the 563 murders reported last year, 371 cases or 66% were solved, and 192 cases were unsolved.

Forty-five victims had yet to be identified because the bodies were beyond

recognition.

In the first two months of this year, 80 cases were recorded, of which 51 cases or 64% were solved, and another 26 were unsolved.

Only four victims could be identified.

Rais said about 30% of the cases were connected to illegal immigrants and law enforcement should be enhanced to tackle the matter.