

Special incentive: allowance for traffic policemen

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PENANG, Wed. -- All 3,793 traffic policemen will soon receive a RM250 special incentive allowance each month, Deputy Prime Minis-

ter Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

The allowance, he said, was in appreciation of "our traffic policemen's ability to carry out numerous heavy responsibilities that are sometimes beyond their call of duty".

Abdullah, who is also Home Min-

ister, said these "heavy" responsibilities included tackling illegal racing, controlling traffic flow during peak hours, downpour, flooding and religious as well as traditional processions.

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Abdullah: It'll
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encourage them
to work harder

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Also tagged as "heavy" responsibilities are escorting Very, Very Important People (VVIP), especially foreign dignitaries, and solving forgeries involving vehicular documents including permits.

Abdullah said this after chairing a State Umno liaison committee meeting at Equatorial Hotel here today.

He said the effective date of the allowance, which would cost RM11,379,000 annually to the Government's coffers, would be announced by the Public Service Department soon.

"We hope the special allowance will spur our traffic policemen to work harder and provide more efficient services. This will also help reduce criticisms against the force, which mostly comprised complaints against the traffic division."

On the meeting, Abdullah, who is also State Umno liaison chairman, said it was mainly to discuss preparations for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's two-day official visit to Penang beginning tomorrow.

It's all systems go, he said.

Dr Mahathir, who will be accompanied by wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, will arrive at the Bayan Lepas International Airport at 6.45pm.

They will then attend a State Barisan Nasional dinner hosted by Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and later meet an estimated 1,500 State BN leaders and members at Equatorial Hotel.

On Friday, Dr Mahathir will chair a dialogue with BN leaders and members in Balik Pulau at 9.30am.

The Prime Minister and Dr Siti Hasmah will also attend a Makan **Tengahari Bersama Perdana Menteri** at the Balik Pulau sports complex about 11.30am.

He will then perform the Friday prayer at Seberang Jaya mosque, near Butterworth, before meeting some 3,000 students at Politeknik Seberang Perai.

The meeting will be followed by another dialogue session.

They will leave for Kuala Lumpur at 6.45pm.