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Investigative science course for policemen

Sulok Tawie

KUCHING, Wed. - Police are setting up a professional course in investigative science through twinning with Universiti Malaya, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai said today.

He said the diploma level course was in response to a call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had expressed concern over the success rate of solving violent crimes, especially murder cases.

"Based on statistics, the police were able to reduce the overall crime index by 1.15 per cent, but the violent crimes index registered an increase of 2.11 per cent.

"Based on this, it is clear that our weakness is in solving violent crimes," Norian said when opening a criminal investigation department officers' conference.

He wanted CID officers to give priority to solving violent crimes.

Norian said he had directed his deputy, Datuk Jamil Johari, to conduct a study and hold briefings with State police contingents where the crime rates were high.

He said all police contingents had agreed to strive to reduce the overall crime rate by 1.5 per cent and have a success rate of 35 per cent.

Speaking to reporters later, Norian also said police need to analyse their prosecutors' performance in handling cases in the lower courts.

"We need to identify why police fail to secure convictions and take steps to overcome such failures immediately.

"Quality prosecution is as important as quality investigation. If we only succeed in investigation, it means nothing to us if we fail in prosecution."

Norian said the factors included problems with witnesses, quality of prosecution and weak evidence.

"So, we have to examine these factors and see how we can improve our prosecution," he added.