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Scientific training for police team

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The police force has embarked on a mission to improve its ability to fight crime using science.

Some 30 officers today formed a group which would undergo an intensive scientific investigation programme.

Serving in various departments for 18 months, the officers would be exposed to about 30 subjects, with emphasis on forensic science, human psychology, information technology and public administration.

A memorandum of understanding on the programme was signed by Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai and Universiti Malaya vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Mohd Zain.

The university would provide some of the academic staff and issue graduation scrolls, while the programme would be carried out at the Senior Police Officers' training college in Cheras.

The move to improve the quality of police investigations represented the force's determination to fulfil public expectations.

"We are hopeful the 30 police officers will be an asset to the force," said Norian.

He acknowledged that investigative skills was a weaknesses with certain officers.

In 1999, of the 169,115 cases reported nationwide, the 'solve rate' was only 25.55 per cent or 43,207 cases.

Last year, 167,173 cases were reported and the rate was 32.48 per cent.

"The aim this year is to hit 35 per cent," he said.

The pioneer group comprised of Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents from the narcotics, traffic, commercial and serious crimes branches.

"The programme emphasises knowledge and is in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision of making Malaysia the hub of educational excellence in the region," Norian said.

Meanwhile, Anuar said the programme would help the police force to increase its performance and professionalism besides teaching poliemen ways to counter modern criminal techniques.

"If the programme proves to be a success, there is a possibility a degree programme may be introduced as it will carry more weight than a diploma."

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