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DAP: Make it worthwhile to join police force

PETALING JAYA: The DAP has called on the Government to adopt a four-pronged strategy to solve low Chinese participation in the police force.

Its national chairman Lim Kit Siang said through the 2004 Budget, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should resolve the problem by providing competitive salaries as well as adopt a new salary scheme for the police which was 20% higher than other civil servants like in some countries.

Lim said that meritocracy should also be guaranteed in appointments and promotions while the United Examination Certificate of Chinese Independent Secondary Schools should also be recognised as minimum academic qualification to join the force to attract the Chinese.

"Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai should end his denial that low pay and unsatisfactory working conditions are the major causes for the low percentage of Chinese participation in the police force," Lim said in a statement yesterday.

Norian had earlier denied that low salaries were the main cause of low participation, saying instead that the main reasons were the reluctance of Chinese youths to be bound by the discipline of the police and their preference to do business.