

12 SEP 2003

Budget-Security

ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO BE SUPPLIED WITH APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Benefits and remunerations provided to security personnel and their families will also be extended to enforcement officers if they are injured or die in the line of duty.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is Finance Minister, in tabling the 2004 Budget in parliament said that this was in appreciation of their services.

He said that recently there had been a spate of hijacking, piracy and gangsterism including "tonto" activities as well as robberies and thefts.

It was the responsibility of the government to provide a safe environment for the public and businesses, he said.

"To ensure the safety of enforcement officers in various agencies, they will be supplied with appropriate equipment while on duty," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that to overcome these problems, the government would increase and strengthen security and enforcement. The police force would step up their surveillance throughout the country, he said.

"The government will review several departments of the Royal Malaysia Police with the view to increasing their capacity and effectiveness through the provision of equipment and special training," he said.

The Prime Minister said that apart from this, the government had also established the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Force (APMM) in its efforts to increase surveillance in the Malaysian waters such as the Straits of Melaka.

Dr Mahathir announced a sum of RM4.4 billion for operating expenditure for internal security while RM6.5 billion was allocated to the Defence Ministry.

For development expenditure, allocations of RM750.5 million and RM2.1 billion have been provided, respectively to equip and modernise the defence and security systems of the nation.

-- BERNAMA

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