

Don't fret over crime stats polemics, PM tells cops

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By Nigel Aw

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak tonight told the police force not to be disheartened over the flak it received due to public perception on rising crime.

"We put our hopes on the police. Do not be disappointed if there are polemics on crime statistics or perception.

"This is not something new. We can improve our performance," he told some 5,000 people comprising of police officers and officials from the Home Ministry at the Malaysian Police Training Academy (Pulapol) today.

Adding that the socio-political and socio-economic landscape of the nation had changed, the premier told the force to view this as a "society in transition" and to similarly transform itself from within.

"The higher the people's income, the more urbanised and educated they become, the more priority they will place for their security and safety.

"They are aware of human rights, they know about the law and they demand accountability from the police and government.

"Here lies the challenge for the police. The police must transform internally to face the challenges of a society in transition that puts so much hope on the police for their safety and security of this country," he said.

'Be disciplined'

Pledging that the government will support the police according to its financial means, Najib called on the police to be self-disciplined and to update its standard operating procedure (SOP).

"The police must be positive minded in accepting this challenge, we need a firm and effective (police) leadership, we need to update the SOP to face this new environment.

"If the police can be as disciplined as Muslims are in the month of Ramadhan, to be self-disciplined even though they are not watched by their superiors... we will be respected and the police's performance will shine even more," he said.

Later, Najib handed out awards to police officers injured in the line of duty, including those hurt during the Ops Aman Bersih 3.0.