

Cops not asking too much

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PUTRAJAYA: The police want a salary revision to meet rising living costs and higher public expectations.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan said that low-ranking policemen, including constables, were now drawing a monthly salary of as little as RM650, putting them among the country's hardcore poor.

A salary review, he added, was necessary not only for these policemen to gain respect but also to prevent them from being enticed with money by criminals in

exchange for not performing their duties.

"A new salary scale is being studied and will be submitted to the Internal Security Ministry," Musa told newsmen here yesterday.

"I understand that we cannot ask too much from the Government as there are many people involved (in the force) but their salary is very low."

The police had their last salary revision about 10 years ago.

Musa pointed out that about 20% of those in the lower rung today were diploma or degree holders, unlike in the old days when the minimum requirement was a Form Three qualifi-

cation. These policemen had either attended university or taken distance learning programmes while in the force.

He stressed that policemen should love their jobs first, otherwise any amount of salary increase would not keep them from being corrupted.

Musa also warned his men that after the revision, there should be no more excuses for accepting bribes. Those guilty would be sacked or hauled to court.

Earlier, Musa witnessed Internal Security Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof presenting contributions totalling RM60,000 to the parents of the late Kons

Mohd Fakhruddin Zakaria who was killed while struggling with two suspects in Kampung Baru Semenyih last week.

Abdul Aziz said the salary revision proposal would be presented to the Public Services Department, which would then submit it to the Cabinet for a final decision.

In Kota Kinabalu, Police Management Director Comm Datuk Mohd Amir Sulaiman said the proposed revision was for all personnel from the rank of Senior Assistant Commissioner to constable.

He said that he was directed by Musa on Sunday to prepare the revision proposals to be forwarded to the Government.

The revision, he added, was

necessary due to the demand for better and professional quality of policing.

"We think it is a fair request," he said.

Amir was speaking to newsmen after witnessing the handing-over of duties by retiring Sabah Police Deputy Comm Datuk Mangsor Ismail to his deputy Senior Asst Comm I Mohd Bakri Zinin at the Kepyayan state police headquarters.

Earlier in his speech at the ceremony, he advised police personnel to let Bukit Aman handle the matter with the Government.

He said it was important for policemen to carry out their duties with sincerity.