

800 pen-pushing cops to be sent out to fight crime

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KUALA LUMPUR: Over 800 policemen will be freed from their desk duties and re-deployed to fight crime.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan said the scheme, which will be carried out in stages, would allow more of these men to protect the people, reduce criminal activities and nab criminals.

Most of the men are currently "pushing pen" at the Federal police headquarters.

Their re-deployment to more "active" duties is being drawn up by the police management department.

"This will be done in stages and an initial batch of 60 policemen will be sent for field assignments," he told a Press conference at the Defence Ministry after meeting Armed Forces chief Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Anwar Mohd

It is learnt that the administrative duties of the 800 policemen will be taken over by civilian staff currently working for the police and more are expected to be recruited.

The move is not surprising as Musa, has promised to double the 7,000 CID officers in the country and address the shortage of investigating officers in all districts.

The move is to ensure a faster police response to crime especially since the 80,000 strong police force has been described as inadequate with the public expressing their dissatisfaction over the slow response to crime

Musa's action is seen as going back to the basics to reduce crime with more beat patrols and crime prevention rounds by uniformed policemen and detectives.

State and district police chiefs have been informed of Musa's orders to deploy more uniformed personnel on the streets and be visible at all times.

The surprise visit by Musa to the Dang Wangi district police headquarters on Wednesday is seen as a testimony of his determination to fight crime and make sure his men stay on their toes. He is expected to make similar visits nationwide.

On the issue of reduction in the amount of fines for traffic offences, Musa said as had been announced, there would be no discounts for speeding, queue-jumping, heading red lights, using emergency lanes and overtaking along double lines.

Musa added that the compound fine rate for summonses issued by the police, Road Transport Department and local councils would be standardised and announced later.