

PM: Criticism reflects concern

BY ZUHRIN AZAM AHMAD

KUALA LUMPUR: "Take the public's criticism positively."

That was the message from Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi when addressing some 5,000 police officers and personnel at the Police Training Centre here yesterday in conjunction with the 199th Police Day celebration.

The Prime Minister said public criticism levelled against the police reflected its concern.

"When the situation reaches a stage where the public no longer cares about what the police do or whatever the force wishes to cover up, then (it means) the public no longer cares about the force and that spells trouble," he said.

Present were Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohd Bakri Omar, his deputy Datuk

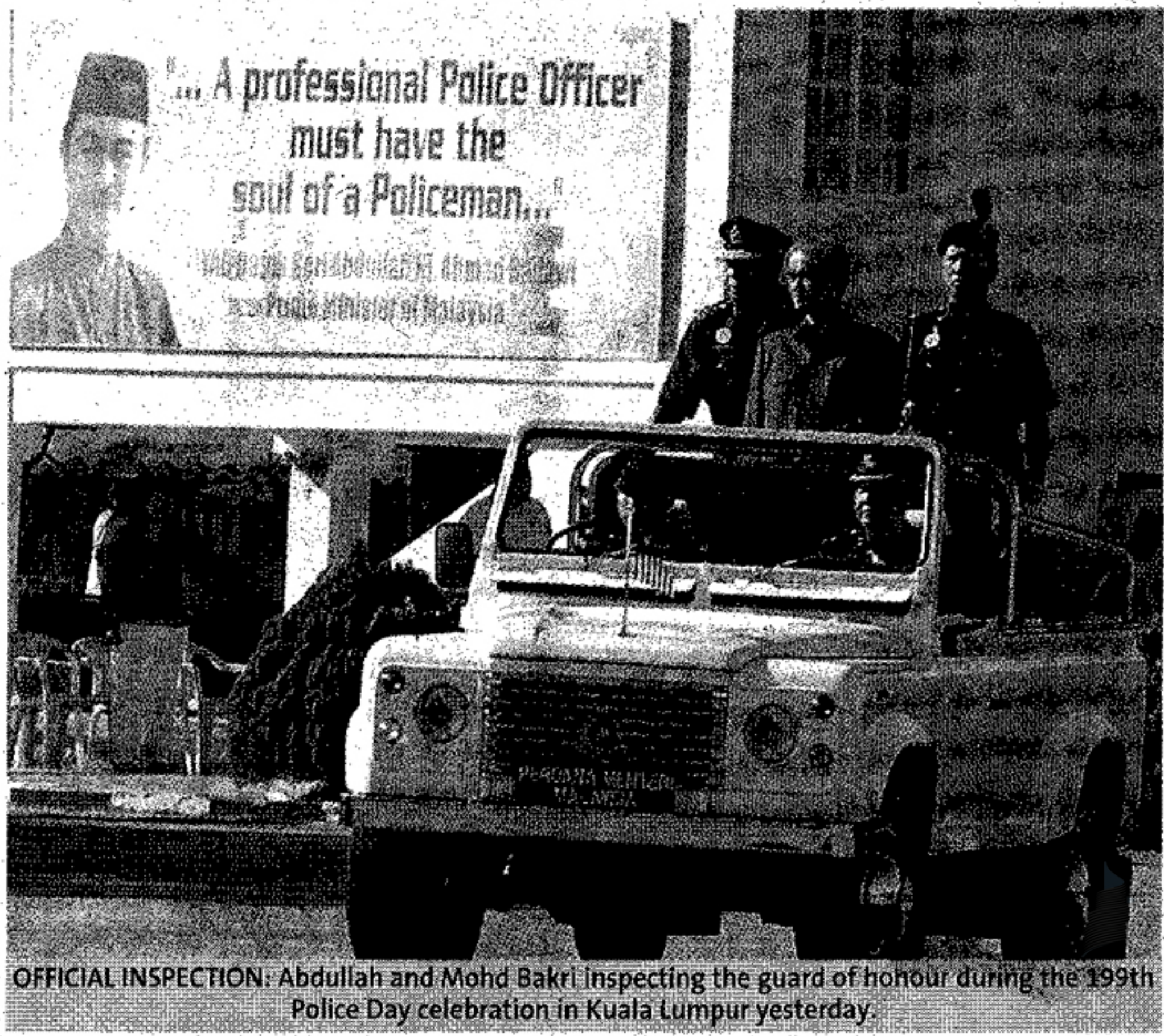
The Star - 26/3/2006
Seri Musa Hassan and directors in the force.

Adopting a fatherly tone during his 45-minute speech, Abdullah reminded the police not to let "one rotten apple spoil the barrel."

"We must guard the good name of the force and make it a law enforcement agency that gives pride to both the Government and the people, while being respected by other police forces around the world.

"This task is a task of all members of the force and should not be left solely to the Inspector-General of Police and his deputy or other senior police officers," he said.

Abdullah, who is also the Internal Security Minister, sought the public's understanding of the police and their services. He said the police could not possibly satisfy everyone.



OFFICIAL INSPECTION: Abdullah and Mohd Bakri inspecting the guard of honour during the 199th Police Day celebration in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.