

Retiring cops to get 3-year extension

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PUTRAJAYA: Beginning this year, retiring police officers will be offered a three-year extension, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

Abdullah, who is also Internal Security Minister, said the retention of experienced personnel was among the measures taken to check the rising crime rate and strengthen the police force.

Speaking at the monthly gathering of ministry staff, Abdullah said the police officers would be offered the extension a few months prior to retirement.

"This is one of the vital approaches required to strengthen our police force and its capabilities," he said.

Also present were his deputies, Datuk Mohd Johari Baharom and Datuk Fu Ah Kiow, ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusoff and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan.

However, Musa later said that not all police officers would be offered the extension.

"They will be assessed on four criteria — a good track record, level of responsibility, trustworthiness and efficiency while serving the force," he said.

"If they accept the offer, they may have to undergo refresher courses and assist cadet officers."

Earlier, Abdullah said approval had been given for the police to recruit about 60,000 personnel. "However, it will take at least seven years for us to complete the recruitment. We can't wait for seven years, it is too long."

Police officers who had retired for about three years would also be asked to rejoin the force. "This is another strategy to enhance the



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusoff (right) heading to the Internal Security Ministry's monthly gathering in Putrajaya yesterday.

strength of the police and Musa is agreeable to it."

Abdullah said training must continue for both experienced and new police officers.

"The police training centres need to be expanded and the additional two new training centres in Kedah and Pahang should be completed as soon as possible. I want all this to be done quickly."

To increase police presence in densely populated areas, Abdullah said they should operate from rented shoplots or double-storey houses.

"There are many such units in major towns. So renting them should not be a problem," he said.

Abdullah also reminded government agencies and ministries to act quickly in giving approvals

aimed at strengthening the police force.

"The police need to use and purchase all sorts of equipment, patrol cars and motorcycles. Divisions in the ministries responsible for approving such purchases should do it fast."

Abdullah added that it was important for the masses to assist the police in combating crime. "We should be responsible not only to ourselves but also to our family and property.

"Our children should be protected from any form of crime. Though we are busy working, we should never neglect them."

He also said ministry officials should prepare reports for the mid-term review of the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"Whatever shortages in allocations, for instance, should be made known and the report should go to the committee on the mid-term review."

Abdullah said he wanted all projects earmarked under the plan to be carried out without delay.

He also called on civil servants to be resolute in their work to enhance the public service delivery system.

"I hope you will take the opportunity of the new year to further improve yourselves and be more knowledgeable.

"When you are more knowledgeable, you will work better and can strive for perfection. Also, add value to yourselves and your work for better quality and performance."