

**Prisoners On Community Rehab Programme Don't Repeat Crime - Abu Seman Bernama  
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SHAH ALAM, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- The more than 700 prisoners who participated in the Community Rehabilitation Programme organised by the Prisons Department since March 2011 at five army camps were found to have not repeated their crime after being released from prison.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop said 1,744 prisoners were selected for the programme with 665 of them fully released and 116 released on parole.

He said through the programme, the prisoners were trained to prepare them physically and mentally, besides given skills training to enable them to meet the challenges in the outside world after their release.

"Skills training including those offering certificates are provided with the cooperation of the ministries of Defence, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Women, Family and Community Development, Education, Higher Education and Human Resources, as well as the private sector," he said.

Earlier, Abu Seman presented the Prisons Department Central Zone's Excellent Service Awards 2011 to 250 officers.

He said the prisoners for rehabilitation were sent to Mahkota Camp in Johor, Syed Sirajuddin Camp (Negeri Sembilan), Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Camp (Kedah), Desa Pahlawan Camp (Kelantan) and Batu 10 Camp (Pahang).

The prisoners chosen for the programme are those sentenced to two years' jail or have less than two years left to serve their prison term.

Abu Seman said the centralised compulsory attendance programme for prisoners with prison terms of less than three months would be extended to Sabah and Sarawak.

He said since the programme began in September 2010 until December 2011, 664 convicts had served the sentence, enabling the Prisons Department to save RM2.1 million in costs of managing prisoners.

"Under this programme, the participants have to do community work for four hours daily. The programme's success shows the good cooperation between the department and the courts in carrying out the order."

Abu Seman said seven half-way houses were also set up to help former prisoners who had just finished serving their sentence to build a new life.

He said 150 former prisoners benefited from this facility with 117 of them managing to find employment to support their families.

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