

General Election: Sarawak Police Will Need About 1,000 Extra Officers And Men
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SIBU, April 15 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak Police contingent is fully prepared to face the upcoming General Election but hopes to get at least 1,000 extra officers and men.

Its commissioner Datuk Sani Acryl Abdullah Sani said he wanted extra manpower for every polling districts from Lundu to Lawas within the 31 parliamentary constituencies in the state.

"We will prepare according to the needs and situation.

"We have our procedures, plans and strategies from the security point of view, which is our main concern," he told reporters after flagging off a mountain bicycle race from the new Sungai Merah Police Station here today.

It was held as part of the country 205th Police Day Anniversary celebration.

Some 200 cyclists including one each from Indonesia and Thailand took part in the 55 kilometers race.

Acryl said he was also looking at whether to engage RELA and Civil Defence Department personnel as part of the preparations.

"Our overall strength in the state is more than 8,000 officers and men including those from the General Operation Force.

"Of course come the election, a big number will be involved in the nomination, campaigning and polling monitoring processes where we want everything to proceed smoothly with the least of disturbances," he said.

"But as usual we need to have a sizeable proportion to attend to our normal everyday duties and responsibilities in crime prevention, traffic control and responding to emergencies.

"That is why we need this extra back-up," he added.

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