

# Striving to become a well-informed force

THE force has come a long way since it was first formed. When Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Mohd Najib Abdul Aziz joined the force as an inspector in 1969, things were very different.

It was still the typewriter era then and he remembers that policemen had to buy their own typewriters and ribbons.

"Our job was tough and tedious at the time as we could not type out seven copies of a report at one go and we had to type out the same report at least three times. Today, this is unheard of as there are computers," said Mohd Najib.

However, he noted that what the force faced today was even more challenging, thanks to the ever-changing community.

"The people now are a lot different from those in the 1970s or 1980s. They are well-informed or more knowledgeable than us as they have been exposed to various informative tools like the print media, Internet and television. They know what is happening locally and overseas.

"What we in the PDRM do or say now will not be accepted blindly by the community. Instead we are questioned at great lengths," said Mohd Najib. It was time officers and personnel in the force moved with the current times, he said, adding that they must be more sensitive towards the needs of the present community.

"The job and responsibility of PDRM is far heavier now compared with the old days, as the present situation is different," he said.

However, there is a stumbling block. PDRM, with the manpower of 95,000 officers and personnel, lacks

The Polis DiRaja Malaysia has undergone numerous transformations from the time it was set up 200 years ago and it is constantly changing, to be current and of service to the people. Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Mohd Najib Abdul Aziz speaks about the future.

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DATUK MOHD NAJIB ABDUL AZIZ



the ability to police the country's 26 million population.

Mohd Najib said there was another pressing need – the Government had to ensure that the police had the right equipment and technology, and apart from that, the necessary knowledge, skills and expertise.

"Our country is developing very fast. Many new areas and towns are being opened and they need the services of policemen. However, the

development of the force is not on par with the development of our country."

Because of that, he said the police faced difficulties in catering to the people's every need. "On top of that, the knowledge and certain capabilities of our officers are limited."

"Complex crimes like commercial crime which mainly involve technology cannot be investigated quickly as the investigation officer has to go

through piles of data involving not only banks but also other areas related to cyber technology such as the Internet and so on.

"So, there is a need to have more officers who have the expertise in dealing with the Internet, cyber technology and auditing bank accounts," he added.

Mohd Najib said there was still a shortage of officers in various departments in the force, although there was an increase in the number of manpower and amenities as the Royal Commission's findings announced. "The number of new CID and narcotics officers approved is still insufficient compared with what we had sought," he added.

However, he said he was glad the Government gave a big allocation under the Ninth Malaysia Plan for the upgrading and building of new infrastructure for the force.

"The most important thing now is to build new district police headquarters, contingent police head-

quarters and even police stations and police beat bases to replace the old ones. Some of these buildings were built before independence and are in a bad shape," he pointed out.

Mohd Najib said the force also needed more allocation to train its officers.

He also said the police force should be treated as a separate and distinct service, adding that the officers should be paid a rate that reflected the true nature of their tasks.

"We cannot equate our service to other government jobs. Our demands and needs are different and if the Government wants to give us a higher pay or additional allowance, it must be different from that of officers from other government departments," he added.

Mohd Najib called upon the younger generation in the force to get as much experience as possible.

"They need more practical training so that they will be able to handle various situations well."

