

# Police, UMS join hands in rehab of local IS followers

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The Royal Malaysian Police and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will work together in the field of psychology and counselling to find ways to "rehabilitate" Malaysians who have been abroad to join the struggles of the militant group, Islamic State (IS).

Inspector General of Police

(IGP), Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar is confident that the co-operation between the police and UMS will be successful in imparting knowledge to the security forces when dealing with such cases.

"We realise there is a threat in this country. Even the young people have been influenced to become IS fighters in Syria and Iraq.

"We are exploring the field of psychology and counselling to enhance the reha-

bilitation process of our young men who have been influenced by the militant group IS," he told reporters after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UMS here yesterday.

Forensic is another area of study that the police force is considering to work with UMS especially on the relevant security aspects.

At the MoU signing ceremony, the university was represented by its Vice Chan-

cellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

Also present were Crime Prevention and Community Safety Department Director, Datuk Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani, and Sabah Commissioner of Police, Datuk Jalaluddin Abdul Rahman.

When asked how far the IS threat had reached among the young and particularly university students, Khalid said it was not at an alarming level.

Nevertheless, police are constantly monitoring the situation and any sign of IS groups with the help of the management boards in uni-

versities.

"The management would tell us should there be any IS activities in their campus and we would take action on them. We don't want our youths to be influenced by extremists," he said.

Khalid also presented the auxiliary police appointment certificate to UMS which received postings for 214 auxiliary policemen.

UMS is the 9th public institution of higher learning that has received the certificate and one of 186 agencies that have been given the auxiliary police certificate, bring-

ing the number of auxiliary police personnel in the country to 49,093.

"These auxiliary police personnel will be PDRM's eyes and ears in monitoring crime in the campus," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Mohd Harun said the MoU is a co-operation on the research aspect of crime, security and public order in Sabah.

He said it will enhance the university's research results that will be valuable input for the security forces in maintaining security along the east coast of Sabah.



Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar (2nd right) exchanging documents with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah (right) during the signing of the MoU between UMS and the Royal Malaysian Police yesterday. Looking on are Bukit Aman's Department of Crime Prevention and Community Safety (JPJKK) director Datuk Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani (2nd left) and Sabah Commissioner of Police, Datuk Jalaluddin Abdul Rahman,