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More assets, training for UTK

TACKLING TERRORISM: Special Action Unit will also get its own building, says DPM

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THE police's Special Action Unit (UTK) will be given more assets and training to increase their readiness in times of crisis.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said this year, the UTK, which was established to tackle terrorism, would be provided better assets, equipment and training to face security threats.

"The unit has been provided new assets from time to time, but I feel that more should be provided to meet the current needs," he said after attending the 41st anniversary celebration of the UTK at the Cheras Federal Reserve Unit Complex here yesterday.

Zahid, who is also home minister, said four countries had offered skills training for Malaysian police, especially the UTK.

"One of the countries is in North America, one in Europe and two in Asia," he said, declining to name them.

Earlier in his speech, Zahid said in appreciation of the UTK's service to the nation, the government would provide the unit with its own building and that construction would start this year.

He said non-monetary remuneration for UTK officers and personnel in the form of assets and equipment should be increased for the unit to continue performing well.



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi inspecting a guard of honour during the 41st anniversary celebration of the Special Action Unit (UTK) at the Cheras Federal Reserve Unit Complex in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is UTK Commander Datuk Hazani Ghazali (left). (Inset) A reenactment of a hostage crisis situation by UTK personnel during the celebration yesterday. Pix by Mohamad Shahril Badri Saali

"This unit has provided the country with excellent service for 41 years and has made a name for itself not only in the country, but also regionally and globally.

"I pledge that this year, we will build a new facility for UTK and have more assets and equipment."

He said beside assets, the government and his ministry were working on improving the UTK Personal Integrated Tactical System "from head to toe".

"I will do my level best (to help enhance the unit), as what has been done in other police departments.

"It would be unfair of me not to give more opportunities to personnel in other departments. UTK is a well-known and respected unit," he added.

Present at the event were Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Noor Rashid Ibrahim, former

inspector-general of police Tun Mohammed Hanif Omar and UTK Commander Datuk Hazani Ghazali.

The UTK, comprising selected police officers and security personnel, was set up on Jan 1, 1975, by Hanif when he was the IGP.

