More rehab camps coming

THE Defence Ministry has identified five more camps for the Correctional Rehabilitation Programme to turn around petty criminals.

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the minimum security camps were located within armed forces facilities.

“So far, 2,400 prisoners have joined the programme and were released in stages since March, last year,” Ahmad Zahid told reporters after opening the Rapat 1Malaysia programme, themed The Role and Challenges in Achieving the National Transformation, at UiTM here.

Introduced in 2010, the programme had been conducted at six camps, namely the Tok Jalai Camp, Alor Setar, Mahkota Camp, Kluang, Kuantan Mile 10 Camp, Kuantan air force base, Desa Pahlawan Camp, Kelantan, and Syed Sirajuddin Gemas Camp, Johor.

He said the programme was an achievement via collaboration between the armed forces and Prison Department.

“The Defence Ministry and Home Ministry managed to change the attitude, mindset and behaviour of the prisoners,” he said, adding that they were not only rehabilitated but also accepted by families and the community.

— Bernama