SHAH ALAM: The Defence Ministry has identified five more camps for the Correctional Rehabilitation Programme to rehabilitate petty criminals with minimum security, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said the camps were within the army, naval and air force facilities. So far, 2,400 prisoners have joined the programme and were released in stages since March last year, he told reporters after opening the "Rapat IMalaysia" programme with the theme "The Role and Challenges in Achieving the National Transformation" at UiTM here yesterday.

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

He said the programme was an achievement under the National Key Result Area on crime reduction through collaboration between the armed forces and the Prisons Department.

"The Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry managed to change the attitude, mindset and behaviour of the prisoners at the camps," he said, adding that they were not only rehabilitated but also accepted by their families and the community. – Bernama