RakanCop campaign attracts 150 more members

Cheras police chief Assistant Commissioner Ahmad Amir Mohd Hashim says the programme is useful

Students of the Baitulmal Professional Institute watching an enactment of a snatch theft. — Pictures by Aswadi Alias

CITY police now have 150 more pairs of "eyes and ears" to help them effectively combat crime.

Yesterday, 150 students of the Baitulmal Professional Institute (IPB) registered to become members of RakanCop, the police hotline which enables the public to pass on information via telephone calls or text messages.

The price for lifetime membership is a mere RM1. Text messages, with the exception of those to check for summonses and *balik kampung* notices, which cost 50 sen per message, are free.

The nationwide membership of RakanCop to date stands at 195,090 since its launch in 2004. Some 61,000 members are from the Klang Valley.

At the recruitment campaign held at IPB's campus in Kampung Pandan yesterday, students received informative pamphlets and watched crimes in progress enacted by policemen from the city police headquarters and picked up many useful tips to prevent crime.

Students had their mobile phone cameras ready to capture the "action", which was greeted with much applause.

The campaign was organised by fifth-semester Bachelor of Science (Human Resources Development) students of Universiti Putra Malaysia, in collaboration with the police and the IPB.

Cheras police chief Assistant Commissioner Ahmad Amir Mohd Hashim said the programme was appropriate at a time when crime was rampant.

"In days gone by, it was common to see children playing outside their houses or at playgrounds. But now, parents dare not let them step beyong their house gates, fearing they might be abducted," he said. — By V. Shuman