

'DO MORE TO HONOUR OUR FIREMEN'

Sultan Nazrin gives suggestions on how to appreciate and respect them

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MEDALS, certificates, gifts, words and commendation letters are not enough to honour the firefighters for their contributions to the nation, said Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah.

In his speech during the national-level International Firefighters Day celebration at Dataran Keretapi here yesterday, he said more should be done to show appreciation to the firefighters and that celebrations held should not be limited to just parades, exhibitions or cultural performances.

He pointed out that events to honour

firefighters should be more meaningful and filled with spiritual elements, including knowledge to increase society's and nation's appreciation and giving meaningful impact to the service.

Sultan Nazrin said there were two keywords for the celebration – appreciate and respect.

Sultan Nazrin gave five suggestions on how to appreciate the firefighters' sacrifices.

"Firstly, organise training programmes and operational procedures that enhance the firefighters' professionalism. Secondly, identify the latest equipment needed to tackle current scenarios to ensure the effectiveness of the fire department.

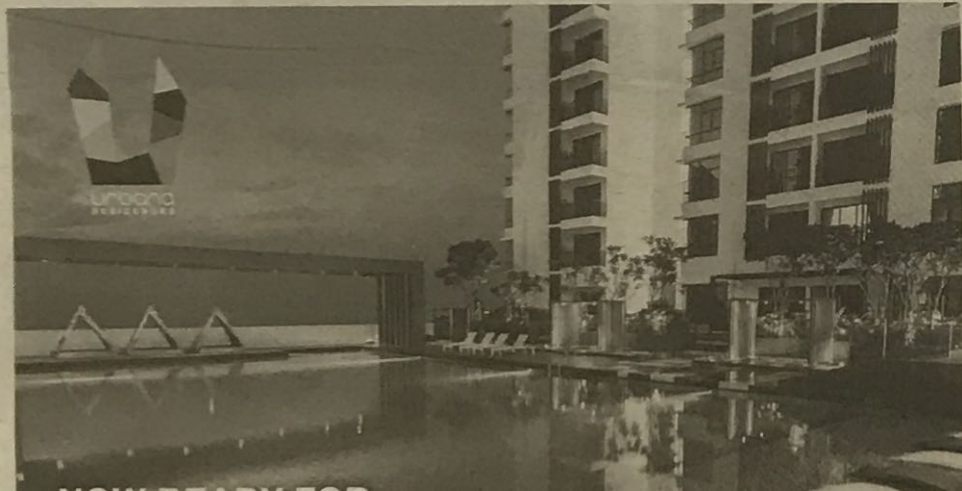
"Thirdly, evaluate operational procedures and equipment to minimise the risk faced by firefighters.

"Fourthly, draft a service and charity package, not just for those who are serving, but most importantly, officers who have retired, commensurating with their sacrifices, responsibilities and risks.

"And finally, increase the nation's awareness of the sacrifices made by firefighters



Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah launching the International Firefighters Day in Ipoh yesterday. With him are Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar (left), Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir (right) and Fire and Rescue Department director-general Datuk Wan Mohd Nor Ibrahim (second from right). PIC BY MUHAIZAN YAHYA



so that the public will have a better appreciation of them."

Sultan Nazrin said he had witnessed teams of firemen carrying out rescue operations in Perak and he valued their commitment and dedication.

"When performing their duty, the firemen are willing to sacrifice and observe human values, carrying out their job selflessly to save life and property," he said.

"As such, it is important to celebrate the World Firefighters Day, which was instituted following a tragedy which killed five firefighters in Linton, Australia in 1998.

May 4 was chosen as a day to honour Saint Florian, one of the earliest firefighters in medieval Rome.

"In the long history of firefighting, thousands more are suffering from multiple injuries and illnesses after their retirement, and the medical costs incurred as a result of firemen risking their life and limb," he said.

Sultan Nazrin said the dedication shown by the firefighters was indeed a *fardu kifayah* (collective obligation) and he hoped the firemen's families and relatives would receive God's blessings.