

31/05/1999

Foundation wants schools to have crime prevention clubs

M. Jeffri Razali

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation today urged the Education Ministry to direct all schools in the country to set up crime prevention clubs in an effort to educate students.

Apart from the club, Parent Teacher Associations of the respective schools also play an important role in promoting crime prevention activities.

Foundation vice-chairmen Datuk Lee Lam Thye said the foundation, with assistance from the Federal Territory Education Department, was in the process of preparing a concept paper for the introduction of the clubs in schools in the Federal capital.

Referring to the rape-cum-murder of Audrey Melissa Bathianathan on May 18, Lee said the incident should propel the Education Ministry into immediate action, and direct the setting up of the club.

"The Foundation brought up the idea of crime prevention clubs in schools even before Audrey Melissa's killing.

"Such clubs are an intergral part of the safe city concept, which has been adopted by the Foundation," he said.

Applauding the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent directive to improve security in the vicinity of the Methodist Girls School on Jalan Kinabalu, Lee said the setting up of the club would complement the directive.

He said: "The club will be able to educate and promote greater awareness among students on crime prevention.

"The idea of assigning teachers to all schools to oversee security measures or safety matters is a step in the right direction," Lee added.

On Wednesday, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu told reporters that Dr Mahathir had ordered the installation of adequate lighting and closed circuit television cameras in the vicinity of the school to protect the students.

He said Dr Mahathir wanted these measures implemented in light of what had happened to Audrey Melissa.

On her killing, Lee said the incident could have been avoided if the authorities had taken preventive measures after incidents of molest and mugging were reported in the same area.

He said the incident was a case of indifference and lack of remedial action towards complaints.

"While this is not the time for finger pointing, one must realise that certain lessons must be learnt from that tragedy," he said, adding that the MCPF was keen to contribute in whatever way, to introduce and implement crime prevention plans in schools.

(END)