

Continuous crackdown

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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the police not to let up in efforts to combat the scourge of pirated and pornographic video compact discs (VCDs).

"This is a continuous thing. The moment you relax, it will come back, so the police will be asked to continue with their action all the time," Mahathir, who is also finance minister, said when asked to comment on the crackdown on such items, with the police declaring their two-week nationwide operations to stop their distribution a success.

He was speaking to reporters after chairing the third session of the Budget 2004 Dialogue at the Finance Ministry.

Mahathir also appealed to the public to provide information on such illegal activity so that action could be taken.

"Sometimes there is information that we need in order to take action. If the information is provided, we will take action," he said.

The operations were conducted after the prime minister himself voiced concern over the blatant distribution and retailing of illegal and smut VCDs.

Police as well as enforcement officers from the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry and local councils have reported seizing VCDs worth millions of ringgit

during the May 26 to June 8 operations.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said police success so far in smashing VCD piracy and distribution of pornographic materials does not mean the matter ends there.

This success would be followed up with even more effective enforcement, he said after chairing the National Consultative Council meeting.

"Police say they have smashed 80% (of the distribution and sale of porn and pirated

Gunmen's 10 shots miss target pg.6

videos) but this does not mean that enforcement has come to an end," he said.

Abdullah said the war against VCD piracy and the distribution of pornographic video discs would continue and there would be no end to enforcement.

He said police would not be complacent in enforcing the law against piracy and distribution of pornographic materials.

There was no doubt that such VCDs were being pirated and distributed to earn money but police would not compromise on the enforcement of the law, he added.