

Reduce price-to wipe out piracy, urges DPM

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BUKIT MERTAJAM: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has instructed production houses and recording companies to reduce the price of CDs and VCDs to wipe out pirated versions from the market.

The Deputy Prime Minister said concerted effort by 'all concerned would bring an end to video and music piracy, with the move by authorities involved in the crackdown being complemented by the lowering of prices of the original copies.

He said the affected companies should also increase their production volume and reduce the price at the same time.

"These companies (production houses) should consider this very seriously. Their returns will be bigger.

"They will also lose out in the long run if they refuse to bring down the prices of VCDs because the public would source for pirated versions (which are cheaper)," he said after launching the Taman Ara Indah housing scheme in Permatang Pasir here yesterday.

Abdullah was asked to comment on the refusal of recording companies and production houses to reduce the price of VCDs and CDs despite efforts by the authorities to wipe out pirated copies in the market.

Abdullah noted that police and

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Supply of pirated VCDs cut

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other enforcement agencies had been successful in clearing pirated VCDs from the shelves, hence recording companies should also act accordingly.

Police and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs enforcement officers took swift action against pirated and pornographic VCD dealers and operators after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad issued a directive two weeks ago.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai gave the June 8 deadline for his men to get cracking and police confiscated more than 2.3 million pirated VCDs and 141,931 pornographic VCDs in 868 raids from May 26.

The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs enforcement unit also reported an 80% success rate in cutting the supply of pirated VCDs.