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Abdullah-VCD

DPM WANTS POLICE TO BE SMARTER IN COMBATING VCD PIRACY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has told the police and other enforcement agencies to be quicker and smarter in efforts to stamp out the illegal video compact disc (VCD) trade.

The deputy prime minister said this approach was necessary as syndicates involved in pornographic and pirated VCDs were constantly changing tactics to avoid detection and arrest.

"We are always faced with new tactics and tricks used by these groups, and therefore police and other law enforcement authorities should be faster to be able to anticipate their moves," he told reporters after flagging off the "Riding For Life" campaign at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa here today.

Abdullah said this when asked to comment on the two-week period given by the Inspector-General of Police to the commercial crimes division to wipe out VCD piracy.

The order was issued on May 26 following concerns expressed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the re-emergence of the rampant manufacture, sale and distribution of illegal VCDs.

Using the resources at their disposal, these syndicates were resorting to various tactics in a bid to outsmart the authorities, said Abdullah, who is Home Minister.

"Nowadays, they have ample resources to plan their countermeasures ... from being arrested by the police," he said.

Asked if IGP Tan Sri Norian Mai had given him an initial report on the crackdown against illegal VCDs, he said: "Not yet. I just returned yesterday." Abdullah had been on holiday overseas for one week.

Asked whether the two-week period was enough for the authorities to eradicate the menace, he said all enforcement agencies, including the local authorities, Customs Department, and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry, should work hard to achieve the target.

"Efforts to wipe out VCD piracy involve several agencies, and they have to work hard to get the biggest success possible," he said.

He hoped the setting up of the special committee to combat VCD piracy could enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement on this matter and provide for a better assessment of the success achieved.

At the function, Abdullah flagged off 35 cyclists -- 20 from Malaysia and 15 from Singapore -- participating in the inaugural "Riding For Life" expedition.

The event, which aims to create better awareness on AIDS/HIV and to raise funds for treating AIDS/HIV patients, was jointly organised by the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF), Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) and Actions For AIDS Singapore (AFA).

The participants will pass through five major towns and 17 villages throughout the country in their 949km journey, which ends on June 8.

-- BERNAMA

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