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Mahathir-VCDS

ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES MUST COORDINATE TO WIPE OUT SMUT VCDS - DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, May 22 (Bernama) -- There must be coordination among enforcement agencies besides clear laws in the country to wipe out pirated and pornographic video compact discs and illegal gambling activities, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The Prime Minister said the distribution of smut VCDs and illegal gambling were rampant in the country while authorities like the police had very limited powers to curb such activities.

"So, we want to study what is happening and how we are going to overcome pornographic VCDs, gambling, illegal immigrants and other such activities.

"There are so many problems that have to be handled by the police. We must coordinate the enforcement work," he told a media conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the measures taken by the government to check the sale and distribution of illegal VCDs, which is said to have become widespread lately.

He, however, did not elaborate on the form of coordination and the agencies to be involved in this task.

Dr Mahathir said studies must be carried out to identify the form of coordination that could be implemented among the enforcement agencies apart from the preventive measures to check these immoral activities.

He said there was overlapping of powers and laws which sometimes caused the VCD syndicates to get away scot-free.

These were the setbacks in enforcement operations against such activities, he said.

"Sometimes it is not clear which authority is to carry out enforcement. For example, the Kuala Lumpur City Hall only issues licences...but what takes place inside the building is not within its jurisdiction. When they gamble inside there, then it becomes the work of the police," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said some of the enforcement laws were outdated, inadequate and some were even misinterpreted.

"All these should be amended in order to combat illegal social activities in our country," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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