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Search for porn to include houses too

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - The crack-down on pornographic video compact discs is going a step further, with the Home Ministry announcing that it will start raiding houses suspected of having these VCDs, especially for sale or distribution.

The ministry has also ordered stringent checks at all entry points to curb the smuggling of VCDs.

The Home Ministry's Central Zone Enforcement unit chief, Mamat Ibrahim, said the raid on houses would be conducted based on tip-offs.

"We will obtain search warrants to search any house believed to keep pornographic VCDs.

"However, we will only act after getting enough and accurate information on the individual involved. We won't go and arrest anyone at whim," he said at his office here today.

Mamat said possessing pornographic VCDs was an offence punishable with a fine of between RM10,000 and RM50,000, or a maximum five years in jail.

Yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi directed police and other enforcement officials to act swiftly and intelligently to eliminate VCD syndicates.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai had also ordered a crack-down on the selling of pirated and pornographic VCDs within two weeks of May 26.

The order was given to the Commercial Crimes Division following a directive from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Mamat said the Customs and Immigration departments had been monitoring those suspected of bringing pornographic VCDs into the country.

On efforts to eliminate the sale of pornographic VCDs in the given time-frame, Mamat said since yesterday the sale of pornographic VCDs was no longer conducted in the open.

Checks showed no new pornographic VCDs were being made in the country.