

Pua: S'gor police contradict gov't on crime rate
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The Selangor police have contradicted the Home Ministry and Pemandu's insistence that crime rates have fallen, said Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua.

He cited Deputy Selangor police chief A Thaiveegan's speculation that a crime surge in Selangor resulted from the repeal of the Emergency Ordinance (EO), saying it effectively amounted to an admission of rising crime in the state.

This "flies directly in the face" of the Home Ministry and Pemandu's statements on the matter, said Pua in a press release today.

hishammuddin serdang squad muda kdn 100612Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein (right) had characterised recent violent crimes as isolated cases, and stressed that the rising crime rate was only public perception.

Meanwhile, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Idris Jala called on the media to also report on cases that were successfully solved, in an interview with English-language daily The Star.

The government blames the media and public perception, while on the other hand the Selangor police sing a different "comical" tune by blaming the EO repeal, said Pua.

"We now have the Selangor police and federal ministers telling different stories to the public.

"The Deputy CPO is admitting that they lacked the competence to solve criminal cases, and that they have to throw every suspect into detention without trial, innocent or otherwise, in order to cut down crime," he mocked.

This, in addition to the "contradictory and piecemeal" statistics on crime provided by the government, "smacks of cover up and manipulation", he added.

The government should instead get its act together and begin tackling the rising spate of crime in the country, he concluded.

Not forthcoming

Previously, Pua had complained that the Home Ministry had not been forthcoming in providing a statistical breakdown of crime in Selangor, providing him with three different set of figures for 2009.

Selangor deputy police chief A ThaiveeganThaiveegan (right) suggested last Saturday that the mass release of suspected criminals from the Simpang Renggam detention centre following the EO's repeal was to blame for the recent crime surge in Selangor.

This followed several high-profile violent crimes in recent months.

The most recent was last Thursday, when a women was set ablaze outside her house in Ampang and a day later a father shot dead outside his son's school in Sri Kembangan.

A series of robberies targeting women in parking basements of shopping malls have also hit the headlines in the last few months, with at least two such incidences reported at The Curve and another at Mid Valley.

Adding to this, Gerakan state assemblyperson Cheah Soon Hai today claimed that the party had received many complaints of snatch theft cases in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kedah.

The police must "streamline" the procedure for making police reports, as many people opt not to make police reports as the procedure is too complex, said the Derga state assemblyperson in a press statement today.

He pointed out a report from the National Key Results Area indicating that snatch theft cases had fallen by 39 percent, saying such data was "superficial" because in reality the cases were not being reported.

Instead, the police should also step up patrolling and set up kiosks at crime hotspots, in order to facilitate reporting and combat crime, he added.

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