

Crime Rate Down But Public Unconvinced
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KUALA LUMPUR -- Although the overall crime rate has gone down, based on official statistics, public perception is otherwise.

Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said changing public perception on the crime rate is hence on the main agenda of the government and Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) in building public confidence in the security situation in the country.

At a news conference after his visit to the Dang Wangi district police headquarters here yesterday, he said a study done under the National Key Result Area (NKRA) of reducing crime, PDRM found that overall crime rate in the first four months of this year dropped by 10 per cent.

"Street crime rate went down to 45 per cent from last year's figure, and the overall crime index in 2010 showed a drop of 15 per cent from the previous year."

Muhyiddin said correcting public misperception about the crime situation could begin with engagement with the local community.

"This (drop in crime rate) is not easy to achieve. Therefore, we can be proud of the achievement, which shows that PDRM and all concerned quarters like community leaders and NGOs have cooperated well. This momentum should continue."

He said that according to a survey, public satisfaction with security in the country due to increased police presence rose by 20.5 per cent to 55.8 per cent in 2010 from 35.3 per cent in 2009.

Fear over crime dropped by 5.7 per cent from 58.5 per cent in 2009 to 52.8 per cent in 2010 due to increased police omnipresence.

"From the statistics, it's a good sign but we need to improve further. This can be achieved through closer cooperation among all concerned parties and increased police omnipresence in the crime hot spots."

He said towards this, 14,222 police personnel had been deployed for patrolling in 50 crime hot spots, while 8,140 members of PDRM's General Operations Force had also been deployed to fight crime in the hot spots.

He added that 5,000 members of Rela (People's Volunteer Corps) and Civil Defence Department had been trained as auxiliary policemen as part of the NKRA initiative to reduce crime.

(Bernama)

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