

Body search rules to become law

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THE dos and don'ts on body searches by the police will be written into the law.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) will include guidelines on body searches by the police.

The Prime Minister said the public could refer to the guidelines on the matter in the Inspector-General's Standing Orders (IGSO) while CPC was being amended.

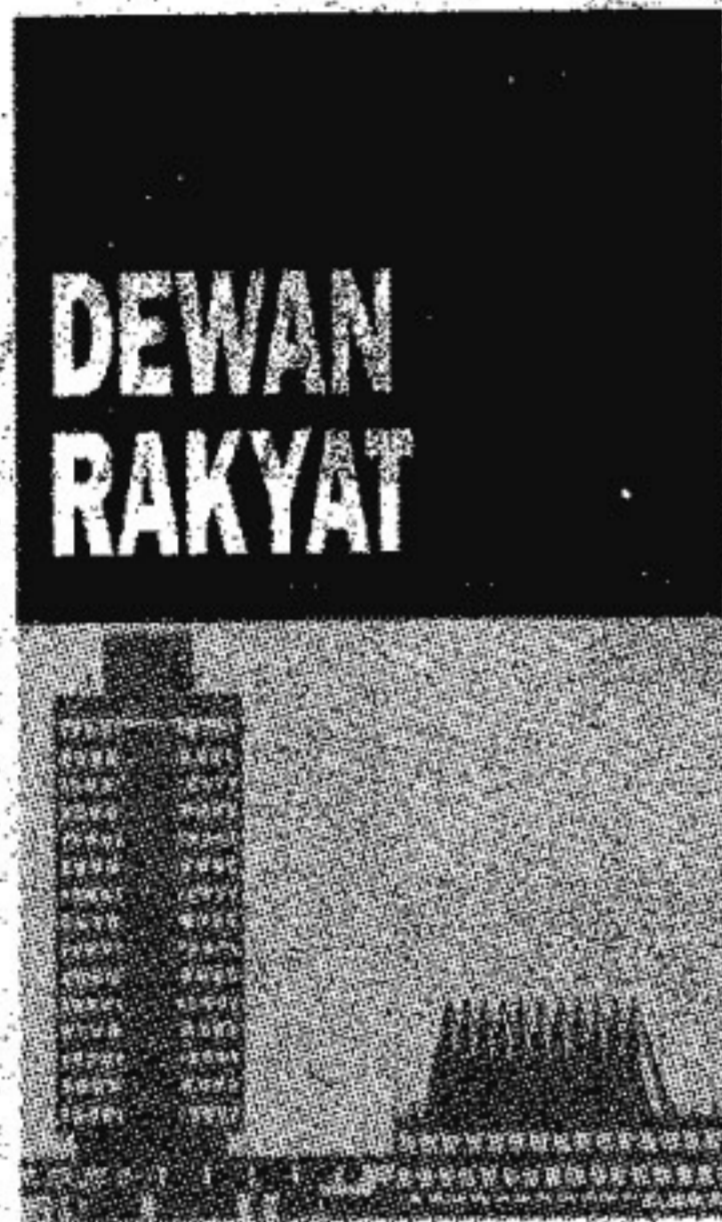
"We can talk about this (the CPC being amended to include the guidelines) when the matter is discussed in Parliament."

Abdullah said this when answering a supplementary question from Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Ipoh Timur) who had wanted to know the status of proposals by the Royal Commission on the Police Force and the independent commission set up to investigate the nude squat controversy.

This was with specific reference to the setting up of an independent police complaints and misconduct commission (IPCMC). Abdullah said amendments to laws pertaining to the proposals had been submitted to the Attorney-General.

"Of the 125 suggestions, 81 suggestions, or 65 per cent, have been implemented, while another 19, or 15 per cent, will be implemented soon.

"The other 25 suggestions, or 20 per cent, are still being discussed by the respective



■ Reports by M.K. Megan, Leslie Andres and Eileen Ng

committees.

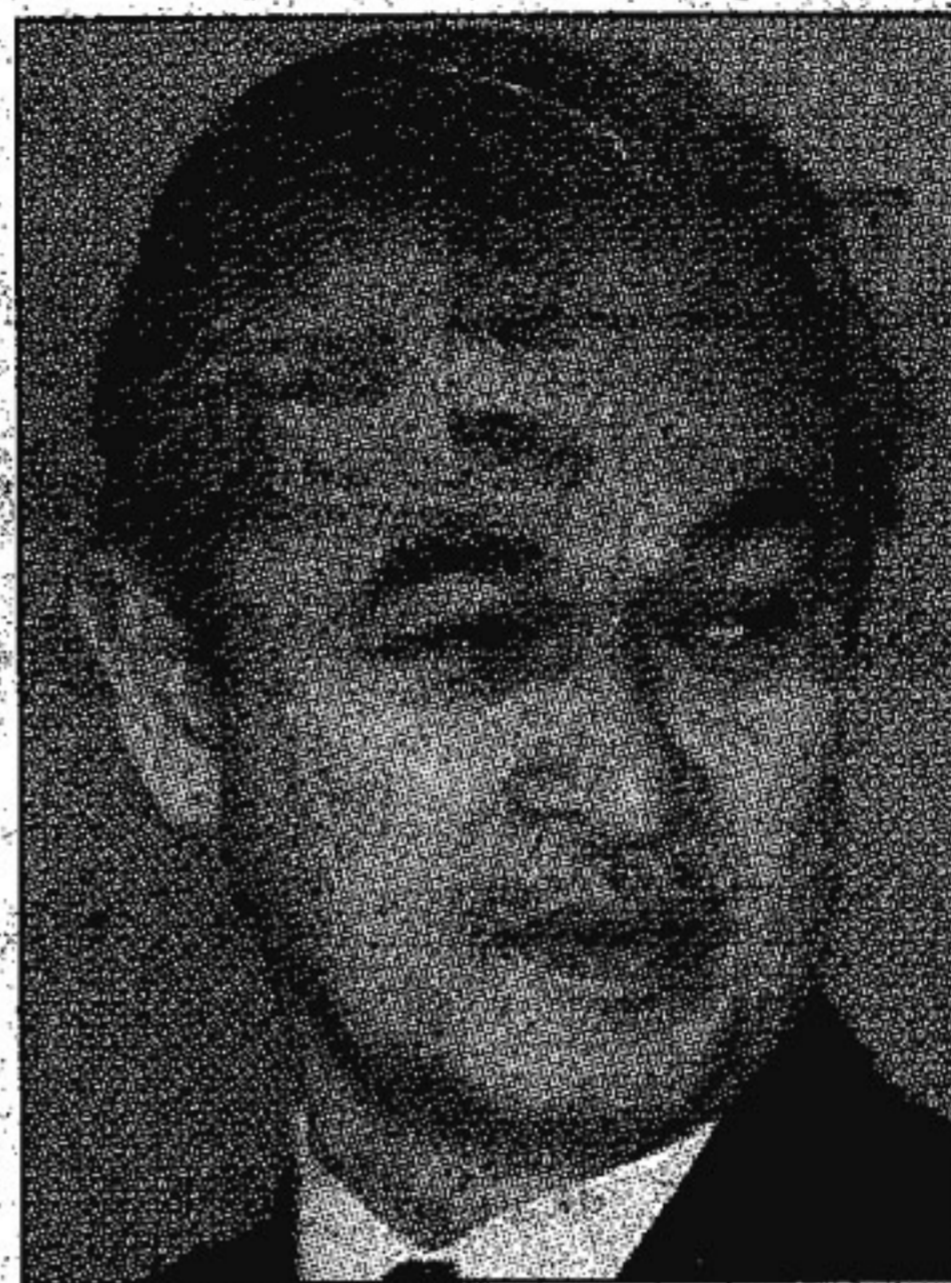
"This includes the proposal on the IPCMC," he said.

Abdullah said the proposals took time to implement as they needed in-depth study because they involved amendments to laws such as the CPC and the Police Act. He said the working committee looking into the improvement of the police force had, in principle, agreed to the setting up of the IPCMC.

"However, the A-G's Chambers needs to plan and come up with a complete proposal on how to set up this independent body.

"The proposal will be presented to me as soon as possible and will be discussed in Cabinet immediately after," he said.

Abdullah said numerous complaints against the police



ABDULLAH: Discuss issue later were being investigated within the force, with action being taken against those found to have misused or abused their powers.

"Action has been taken against many policemen, for instance, by docking their pay, issuing warning letters, suspensions and even sacking.

"There have also been many complaints against policemen who did not act on police reports. I have checked myself and I know that the police do act on many reports.

"These complaints have also reached the A-G, who has had many discussions with the police force," he said.

To another supplementary question from Datuk Badrudin Amirudin (BN-Jerai), Abdullah said the police force had achieved several successes recently which had caught the attention of security and intelligence agencies in other

countries.

Citing a case, he said Indonesian police had sought the help of their Malaysian counterparts to help curb human trafficking of Indonesians to Malaysia.

"This was done within four days. They found out that human trafficking was done by Indonesian citizens and put a stop to it.

"Even the United Kingdom sought the help of our police when a Malaysian was wanted for cheating in England.

"Scotland Yard asked for help in tracing the Malaysian who had fled to Europe. Our police tracked him down and persuaded him to turn himself in to Scotland Yard," he said.

Abdullah also praised the police force for their success rate, which was well above Interpol standards.

Its success rate in solving cases stands at more than 50 per cent, while Interpol has a 20 per cent rate. On past weaknesses, he said everyone should learn from them.

"When we initiate changes, we should not only concentrate on the future.

"There are lots of things that happened in the past that need to be rectified," he said.

For example, the Prime Minister said burst pipes occurred because of their age and lack of maintenance.

"If you already know that such things should not have happened, then give due attention to efforts to rectify it."