

PM: No compromise on nation's security

NST- 6/4/2007

■ **By Alang Bendahara**
alang@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: An all-out war, just like the one fought against terrorists during the communist insurgency, must be waged on criminals in the present day.

This order went out yesterday from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to policemen in the face of more prevalent and increasingly sophisticated crimes being committed.

He said the 96,000-strong force, entrusted with national security and the people's safety, should emulate their colleagues who maintained peace and security while combating communist terrorists during the Emergency and several years thereafter.

The prime minister said there was a need for today's policemen to emulate the commitment, determination and the steely spirit of their colleagues when they were fighting the communist insurgency.

He said criminal gangs and terrorist cells must be fought by whatever means to wipe out their threat to the nation and people as their existence could harm the country's

political stability and socio-economic well-being.

"I'm using the word 'war' because they are dangerous enemies to our country and people.

"If every man in the police force has the steely spirit and determination like his colleagues during the communist insurgency, surely efforts to paralyse criminal gangs and terrorists will succeed," he said when addressing a special assembly to mark the bicentennial celebrations of the police force at the police training centre (Pulapol) in Jalan Semarak, here.

Abdullah, who is also internal security minister, said there must be no compromise in protecting the nation from undesirable elements.

"The police force must brace itself for whatever challenges they have to face to realise the objective."

In the fight against communists, he said, policemen had to venture deep into the jungle and faced the risk of guerilla attacks.

Abdullah said although there was no danger from the communist insurgency now, other threats could also harm national security if the

police force was not strengthened.

Abdullah said police today faced more challenges as criminals and terrorists were more advanced.

The criminal gangs and terrorist cells, he said, were being funded by wealthy groups to carry out their activities and used sophisticated equipment.

"They have links in foreign countries, enabling them to flee to another country to escape arrest.

"Also criminal acts are now more widespread and prevalent in urban areas. Police must give more attention and pool their resources in the fight against terrorists and criminals.

"The police capabilities must be upgraded to guarantee national security and the people's safety.

"In this regard, I don't deny the police have a very big role. I hope and believe the police force will live up to expectations."

Earlier, Abdullah launched the police force's Five-year Strategic Plan: Mission 2011.

He also presented awards and commendation certificates to police officers, other ranks and individuals for their contributions to the development of the force.