

PM: Don't let a few bad apples spoil police image

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KUALA LUMPUR: The public should not let a few incidents cloud their perceptions of the good work done by the police, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"If the police are not good, we won't be safe. We will not be peaceful and we will be unhappy. We will also be afraid all the time," the prime minister, who is also the internal security minister, said.

On Monday, the Malaysian chapter of Transparency International disclosed the results of a poll which showed that the public and corporate sector ranked the police the lowest among government services for integrity and transparency.

Abdullah conceded that the police, like any organisation, had its fair share of rotten apples.

"I don't say everybody (in the police) is good. Even in professional associations, there are people who do bad things, which make them unworthy of being members of such bodies. But they do not represent the majority."

Abdullah said the Transparency International survey was possibly a reflection of public perceptions formed by negative police cases highlighted in the media. "The problems of a few have caused so much trouble for so many."

Abdullah said the police had been working to clean up its image and based on the response time to emergency calls, there was a lot of improvement.

Cases were also being solved

faster but "people like to talk about the bad things, not the good. When there is bad news everyone talks about it and this in turn gives the impression that the force is bad".

Launching the Pantai Sentral Park mixed development project in Pantai Dalam here, Abdullah said it was his dream to see the country peaceful and safe for everyone.

The project is a privatised development by Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur and Amona Development Sdn Bhd.

Abdullah said Malaysians enjoyed a "high level of comfort" and because of this there was peace and harmony.

There were challenges to peace and harmony among the races but these had been overcome, he said.

"When there is tension we know how to control it. We make sure it is put out or eased. The majority of the public also want peace and this has helped to relieve tense and difficult situations."

On the effort to redevelop Pantai Dalam, Abdullah said Kuala Lumpur City Hall had done a good job but there was more work to be done in the capital.

"I have been to many cities and when we compare them with Kuala Lumpur, I find the city to be in good hands. But there is room for improvement."

He said City Hall should not just focus on relocating squatters and building houses for them but also enhance public facilities.

Abdullah said security in the city should also be improved and the crime rate brought down.