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PM wants complex, building managements to install CCTVs

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has urged the managements of buildings and complexes to install closed-circuit television camera systems in their premises.

"Once police decide that more cameras are needed in their buildings, the managements should follow the recommendation," he said yesterday.

Abdullah said building managements should foot the cost of installing the systems.

"If we want to fight crime we have to be serious about it. We are helping them.

"Why can't they spend some money in order to increase safety at their premises?

"I see that as very logical. The police will help them," Abdullah said when told that some buildings

might not want to fork out the money.

He said the police would take the appropriate action on building managements which did not follow the advice.

Abdullah said in 2004 the cabinet had decided that more cameras should be installed at public buildings and public places.

He said the Housing and Local Government Ministry had been assigned the task but it appeared to have run into problems.

"That is why we now want the police to decide which are the areas where CCTVs have to be placed and the extent of the coverage."

The decision to bring back retired or retiring police personnel was aimed at beefing up the police force while efforts were being

made to recruit an additional 60,000 personnel by 2010, he said.

However, Abdullah said only cops with good service records and in good shape would be retained or rehired.

"They will be retained on contract on the same salary scale. We are leaving it to the inspector-general to determine the number of personnel and the categories in which they are needed," he said.

Abdullah said the police could start the rehiring immediately.

On the civilians to be recruited for administrative duties, Abdullah said these were mainly for personnel management, clerical work or in public relations.

He said front desk operations, which included taking down police reports from the public, would

continue to be done by police personnel.

"We want to increase the personnel in the police stations whose presence will be seen by the public and who can act quickly on investigations," he said.

Police personnel released from administrative positions could be utilised for beat or traffic duty.

On police stations, Abdullah said it was not easy to build new stations as it involved identifying new sites and acquiring them.

"The stations have to be in the town centres. So I have instructed that police use shophouses in town areas while new stations are being built.

"I call on developers to build new stations or reserve shoplots in their housing schemes for the police to use as stations."