

Pakatan says to channel more funds towards fighting crime
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 —The federal opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR) today said that it would redeploy more resources to the police for criminal investigation to cut the crime rate if it takes power at the next general election.

PR leaders said today the coalition's proposals would be contained in its alternative Budget 2013 proposals.

"We have decided the current need of Malaysians is crime investigation and crime prevention," said PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar (picture) at a press conference after PR's weekly meeting.

PR plans to redeploy police officers from "non-priority" departments to the police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

PR also pointed out that the police's budget allocated for criminal investigation saw an overall increase of 42.27 per cent from 2010 to 2012.

The opposition pact compared it to the spending for internal security and public order which had an overall increase of 72.45 per cent in the same period of time, the highest spike in the police's budget.

DAP's Liew Chin Tong had earlier this month said police were given an allocation of RM4.5 billion in 2010, RM5.8 billion in 2011 and RM6.3 billion in 2012 respectively.

He had called on the authorities to review police budgetary arrangements, pointing out that police were given RM1.68 billion to tackle internal security and public order compared to RM504 million set aside for them to investigate crime this year.

Malaysians have been increasingly concerned about their safety after a spate of high-profile crime cases.

But the authorities have defended their statistics, which they say show the crime rate is on the decline, making Malaysia one of the top 20 most peaceful countries in the world based on the latest Global Peace Index (GPI).

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein had also this month accused opposition parties of taking advantage of issues, which were of concern to Malaysians, especially the crime rate, for political mileage with the 13th general election due soon.

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