

Redistribution of officers to CID vital for crime busting, says PR
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 4 — The redistribution of police officers to the criminal investigation department (CID) is vital in tackling Malaysia's high crime rate, Pakatan Rakyat (PR) said today.

Leaders of the opposition coalition said today the country would need at least 9,000 active investigating officers (IO) in accordance with the workload of five cases a month per officer, as recommended by the Royal Commission to Enhance the Operation and Management of the Royal Malaysian Police.

In 2009, national news agency Bernama had reported each of the 2,233 IOs was burdened with 20 cases a month.

PAS secretary-general Mustafa Ali (picture) said today the redistribution of human resources was "vital in improving crime eradication".

"When fighting crime, as standard, an effective investigative officer would handle five cases a month, but now there are 20, that is why the cases cannot be solved in time," Mustafa told a press conference today after the PR secretariat meeting here.

He added this was one of PR's proposals for Criminal Policing in Budget 2013.

The other two suggestions include raising officers' salaries as a means of eliminating corruption and rewarding the performance of police officers, as well as enhancing technology and communications within the institution.

PKR information chief Chua Tian Chang, who was also present during the press conference, believed cost of living is directly linked to crime reduction efforts.

"If we can reduce crime rates, we can reduce cost because crime incurs cost," he explained.

"If we can make the police force more efficient, we can reduce cost of living," he added.

In July, PR said it would redeploy more resources to the police for criminal investigations to cut the crime rate if it takes power at the next general election.

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

The coalition plans to redeploy police officers from "non-priority" departments to the CID.

PR also pointed out that the police's budget allocated for criminal investigations 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, the highest spike in the police's budget.

DAP's Liew Chin Tong had in July 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 the issue for political mileage with the 13th general election due soon.

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