

Let PJ have own auxiliary police force, says assemblyman
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By Zurairi AR

PETALING JAYA, June 14 — The Inspector-General of Police (IGP) and the Home Ministry should respond to the Petaling Jaya City Council's (MBPJ) application for an auxiliary police force to ensure the safety of residents, a DAP assemblyman said today.

The council has spent a total of RM4.3 million to train and equip 100 men for its auxiliary police unit, but its application to the police last year has been ignored after another application was previously rejected in 2010.

"There are 123 agencies administering auxiliary police operations comprising 25 government agencies, 21 statutory bodies, 32 government-linked companies (GLC) and 45 companies.

"GLCs such as Telekom, Tenaga and Petronas as well as private companies such as Astro, PLUS, Puncak Niaga and even Utusan Melayu are allowed to have their own auxiliary police, why should the people in PJ be deprived of the right of a safe living environment?" asked Damansara Utama state assemblyman Yeo Bee Yin in a statement here.

Yeo claimed that both the Johor Baru City Council (MJB) and Malacca City Council (MBMB) have had their applications approved, and by denying permission to MBPJ, Putrajaya has shown double standards towards the city in the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) state.

The DAP social media strategist also stressed that establishing auxiliary police forces was among the many initiatives recommended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's Government Transformation Programme (GTP).

Under the "Reducing Crime" National Key Results Area (NKRA), the police are asked to increase their presence, which includes expanding the Police Volunteer Reserve and co-ordinating volunteerism through community policing.

Yeo pointed out that there are only 1,323 policemen in charge of Petaling Jaya, which has a population of around 620,000. This makes a police-to-population ratio of 1:490, higher than Interpol's optimal ratio of 1:250.

This lack of police presence has forced PJ residents to spend hundreds of ringgit annually for private security barricades, boom gates and guardhouses, she added.

MBPJ's application for an auxiliary police force had been rejected by the IGP in 2010, citing the decline in the crime rate and fears of "overlapping functions" with the police.

In December last year however, then IGP Tan Sri Ismail Omar was quoted as saying that the police will be involved in continuous partnerships and collaborations with auxiliary police to enable more effective crime prevention initiatives under the GTP.

"Auxiliary police and police need to strengthen their strategic co-operation and collaboration to prevent crime in public areas without affecting the basic roles of auxiliary police to maintain security at their appointed organisation," said Ismail.

He has since retired from the police force. Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar is the new IGP.

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