

Did government lie about crime statistics, asks Kit Siang
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By Rita Jong

Going by Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's recent statement on the crime upsurge, Malaysians have been right all along about the breakdown in law and order and that the Barisan Nasional government and police have been shading the truth.

DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang today said the home minister's 'admission' that there has been an increase in organised and petty crimes goes against what the prime minister and the police have been saying, that the crime index has dropped.

"Is Ahmad Zahid now confirming that the prime minister, police and previous home minister had been wrong and the public right in past four years about the worsening crime situation?" said Kit Siang.

"Is he prepared to be frank and forthright and state whether Malaysians had been fed false and wrong crime statistics in the past four years?"

The Gelang Patah MP said that if that was so, then the home minister should reveal the correct statistics.

"Ahmad Zahid said that the cabinet was pressured to abolish the Internal Security Act and the Emergency Ordinance and, as a result, the crime rate increased and organised and petty criminals came out of the woodwork," he said.

"Just before Parliament was dissolved for the 13th general election, Malaysians were told that the country's crime index had decreased by 26.8 per cent since the first phase of the GTP began in 2009 and that Malaysia had been ranked the safest and most peaceful country in Southeast Asia according to the Global Peace Index."

He said Malaysians were told that the country recorded around 550.1 criminal incidents per 100,000 people, placing Malaysia lower than Singapore, Hong Kong, Britain and the United States.

"So what is Malaysia's problem?"

If Malaysians were all that safe, he said, then "why was RM272.5 million allocated in the 2013 Budget to ensure that the rakyat feel safe?"

"In fact, this claim of a relentless fall in crime rate in the past four years continued to be the official stance after the 13th General Election with the prime minister reiterating his 'War Against Crime' speech on June 8."

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had said the crime rate has been falling since the GTP programme against crime, stating that since April this year, the crime rate dropped by 3.1% compared to the same period last year.

However, just recently, the home minister and the Inspector-General of Police appear to have decided to ditch all the claims about the success of the GTP programme. Instead, they have taken the opposite tack, saying that the country has a rising crime rate to justify the

restoration of EO-like preventive laws.

"But where are the new crime statistics? I put this question to Ahmad Zahid during his winding up of the debate in the Royal address in Parliament yesterday, but he did not give a satisfactory answer," Kit Siang added. - July 10, 2013.

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