

**Minister, IGP should read from the same page, says Kit Siang**  
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**By LEE SHI-IAN**

Both the Home Minister and top cop should be on the same page when issuing statements on whether Malaysia was a safe country, said DAP party adviser Lim Kit Siang.

"The Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar and minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi can't blow hot and cold and issue inconsistent statements.

"They can't claim Malaysia is a safe country with crime rate decreasing by 26.8 per cent, since the launch of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) in 2009, on one day.

"Then the following day, they attribute the recent spate of violent crimes to the abolition of the Emergency Ordinance (EO) Act in 2011 which put almost 2,000 hardened criminals back on the street."

Lim said the police and ministry should not refer to the Global Peace Index which ranked Malaysia as the safest and most peaceful country in Southeast Asia and then contradict themselves.

The veteran politician said: "if the release of the detainees from EO in September 2011 was responsible for the spike in crime, why was it not reflected on the national crime statistics? "Instead, police claimed that there had been a reduction of street crime and the national crime index by 41.3 per cent and 7.6 per cent last year compared with 2011."

Lim speculated whether the heads of violent and organised crime syndicates only became active after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak declared war on crime.

"Najib's declaration came a month after the general election. Did it cause Malaysians to feel unsafe eating out after a spate of armed robberies at mamak stalls and restaurants?"

Less than a year ago, then Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein strenuously refuted assumptions that the increased crime was due to the release of EO inmates. Hishammuddin said despite media reports of former detainees being involved in crime, the number was not at a worrying level.

Lim wondered whether Hishammuddin was right when he said this last July or was he misleading the Malaysian public.

Last year, police reassured the public that they were monitoring the 1,473 released detainees from preventive law to ensure that they would not return to their old habits.

The government repealed the Internal Security Act (ISA), EO and the Restricted Residence Act last year.

Police disclosed they planned to help the detainees find jobs.

Lim asked whether the programme had actually been carried out and what was the result or was it just empty talk.

"If the police want full public cooperation in the battle against crime, it should take the Malaysian public into their confidence and share these information with them," he said. - July 6, 2013.

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