

**Zahid's "tall tales" making police look "totally incompetent", says DAP
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BY RITA JONG**

The DAP wants the Home Minister to stop making false claims that 90% of serious crimes were by former detainees of the Emergency Ordinance (EO).

DAP national publicity secretary Tony Pua said Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's claims were baseless as a study was never conducted to even suggest such findings.

"If the 'study' even exists, then surely for a shocking 90% of the crimes to be identified as being carried out by ex-detainees who were released from Simpang Renggam, these 'criminals' would have been identified, arrested, investigated and possibly even charged already," he said in a statement today.

"But even if Ahmad Zahid's allegation is true, it doesn't prove the need for the EO. On the contrary, it only proves the police force is totally incompetent," the PJ Utara MP said.

The Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Pua said, had also confirmed that Ahmad Zahid had "pulled a fast one with his tall tales".

"The AG has provided concrete evidence that the minister was telling tall tales to justify the reinstatement of EO-like laws," said Pua.

He said Abdul Gani informed a forum by the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation on Saturday "even after the repeal of the EO in 2011, there was no evidence from the 1,567 investigation papers submitted that violent crimes were committed by former detainees".

He also said the AG said there was no evidence to say the former detainees committed the crimes and that the latter was even unapologetic in saying the police had relied on the EO to lock up suspected hardcore criminals, as they were simply "addicted to it".

Last month, Ahmad Zahid claimed he would present statistics from a recent study on crime in full at the next Parliament meeting to justify the need to revive the EO, to allow the police to place suspects under detention without trial for two years.

Ahmad Zahid claimed that he had obtained statistics that in Selangor, 90% of organised crimes were carried out by ex-detainees released from the Simpang Renggam detention centre and that he would present statistics and the study in the Dewan Rakyat in next month's meeting.

Pua said: "When pressed again for statistics and evidence last week of his allegations, Ahmad Zahid continued to insist that he had the figures in hand but urged for patience before making them public."

"He gave the excuse that the media captains need to be properly 'briefed' by the home ministry and police before the government can allow any disclosure of classified crime data involving former EO detainees."

Pua said the EO was ineffective in fighting rising crime and past published police statistics shows just that.

"At the peak, crime rate rose by 34% from 2004 to 2007. During this period, the EO was readily available at the police's disposal and yet crime was seemingly unstoppable," he said.

"However, despite the EO repeal at the end of 2011, the police and the Home Ministry were claiming victory in the fight against crime, with the crime index declining by 7.6% in 2012. So how can Ahmad Zahid now claim that the cause of rising crime is almost entirely due to the repeal of the EO?"

Pua also called Ahmad Zahid to heed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's advice that the police must be better trained to look for evidence to charge them in court instead of just catching suspects and chucking them into EO detention. – August 26, 2013.

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