

# Crime watch widens

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CCTVs for whole country if  
system is effective, says PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The hidden "eyes" that watch over the city's traffic and help the police to nab criminals will be a full-fledged crime monitoring system nationwide if the approach proves effective.

"We are in the electronic and multimedia age," said Prime

Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"This provides us with many avenues to take advantage of, as long as they are used for good reasons," he told reporters after launching the national Community Sports League 2006 at Padang Semarak, Angkasapuri here yesterday.

Comparing the electronic eyes

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# Be careful in investing EPF savings, Pak Lah tells contributors

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to the *mata-mata* (a metaphor for police in Malay), Abdullah said:

"Good. Good. We also want to try out these electronic eyes. Our *mata-mata* are insufficient. Now, we have electronic eyes.

"If closed-circuit TVs prove effective and practical, what's wrong in using them throughout the country?"

Abdullah, who is also Internal Security Minister, was asked to

comment on *The Star* report yesterday on the Integrated Transport Information System (ITIS) in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya that had helped the police to keep close watch on the traffic situation.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique had reportedly said that a study was underway to allow the use of ITIS to monitor crime as well.

At present, the RM365mil

system assumes a crime-fighting role only when the police request help from the company managing the system. It has helped the force to solve vehicle theft, robberies as well as kidnaps and murder cases.

These electronic eyes come in the form of 255 CCTVs managed by ITS Konsortium Sdn Bhd on behalf of the FT Ministry.

Describing the system as a "good idea", Abdullah said that useful and beneficial electronic

gadgets were crucial for the people particularly in the current multimedia era.

He said if the CCTVs were proven to be beneficial, there was nothing wrong with using them.

"But they must be used for good purposes. We should not abuse them," he added.

On another matter, Abdullah urged Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contributors to be "extra careful" when investing their savings because of the

risks involved.

Abdullah, who is also Finance Minister, was asked to comment on a report in a Malay weekend paper that about RM600mil in EPF savings invested in trust funds had incurred losses.

The report stated that 80% of the money withdrawn had made losses because of the fund managers' inability to invest in profitable ventures.

Abdullah said the losses were

incurred probably because the unit trusts they chose were not viable.

"If they want to invest money with guarantees of higher returns, be careful. This is important," he added.

Under the scheme, EPF contributors with minimum savings of RM55,000 in Account One can invest some of it in fund management institutions sanctioned by the Finance Ministry.