

PM: Need to review law enforcement

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GENTING HIGHLANDS: In view of increasing crime, there is a need for the Royal Commission on the Police Force to look into the policemen's role of enforcing law, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said many people do not understand the function of the police when it comes to policing, especially when they do not have any dealings with the police.

"Although most people know the police force, their role in law enforcement, especially at the lowest level, is not well-understood," he told reporters at the Prime Minister's Office Family Day celebration here yesterday.

Abdullah, however, clarified that he was only making a request and it should not be construed as directing or interfering in the work of the commission.

"It is merely my view. Maybe the commission has already looked into this aspect during their inquiry," he said, adding that the Government gave the

commission the freedom to carry out its inquiry objectively.

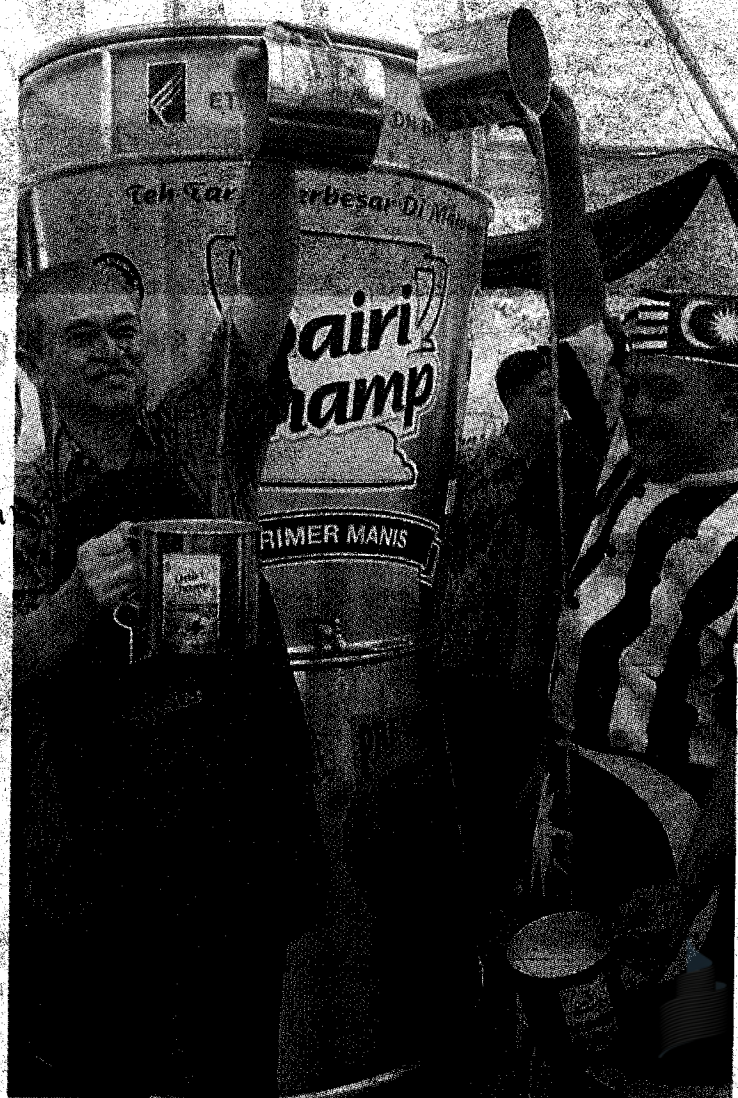
Abdullah said the general public and non-governmental organisations had a role to play in helping the police carry out their policing duties.

"I hold strongly to the view that these groups can help the police lower the crime rate of our country," he said.

Abdullah said the Government would immediately implement recommendations by the commission in its status report, which was forwarded to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail last Friday.

He said this was necessary because it would help improve the police force, adding that the King had already consented to this.

The status report is a progress report containing details of the commission's work in the past six months. It also contains recommendations to improve the police force.



VIP TEA-MAKER: Abdullah making 'teh tarik' during the Prime Minister's Office Family Day in Genting Highlands yesterday.