

PM: Law not adequate

The Star 18/06/04 No 2

'Need to review provisions regarding citizen's arrest'

BY SA'ODAH ELIAS

PUTRAJAYA: The current provisions of the law regarding citizen's arrest are not adequate and need to be reviewed, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said the public needed to know what their rights and responsibilities were in apprehending those who committed crimes within their view.

Abdullah said the Attorney-General had already been informed of the Cabinet's view on the need for further clarification of the law regarding citizen's arrest.



"At present, the law on citizen's arrest is not comprehensive and thus citizen's arrest cannot be effected on all types of crime.

"So we need to study all aspects of the law to make this possible," he

said after witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between DRB-Hicom Defence Technologies Sdn Bhd and Agusta Westland at his office yesterday.

The Government had to act because the people were getting angry over the spate of cases involving snatch thefts, he said, referring to the recent death of a suspected snatch thief a few days ago after allegedly being beaten up by several people.

"That is why I suggested that we empower the people so that they can carry out their responsibility within the ambit of the law if a crime is com-

mitted in front of them," he added.

On Wednesday, Abdullah had said that the Government was considering introducing a law to strengthen the people's rights in helping the police to curb crime, including snatch thefts.

He said the action of the people reflected the awareness of their responsibility to help reduce crime.

However, he said, the public, in tackling crimes like snatch thefts, should not take the law into their own hands or resort to actions that could create other problems for which they had to face consequences.