



**PEMANDU**  
UNIT PENGURUSAN PRESTASI DAN PELAKSANAAN

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Police Omnipresence in Crime Hot Spots**

**Kuala Lumpur:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's Government Transformation Programme (GTP), which embodies the principles of *1Malaysia*, of *People First*, *Performance Now* and has crime reduction as one of its six National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) aims to saturate 50 hot spots in four states – Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Selangor and Penang – which account for over 70 percent of street crimes with police omnipresence.

“Given our limited financial resources, we have for a long time relied on a traditional response to crime, where the police are solely responsible for crime reduction,” said Minister of Home Affairs Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, who is also the lead minister of the crime reduction NKRA. “While the police have an absolutely vital role, a new approach is needed. We must quickly and actively involve multiple agencies across the criminal justice system and other parts of national and local government as well as the private sector. This will ensure an omnipresence of the policing force. Critically, our new approach must also be based on much more community participation.”

“The government is very sensitive to what concerns the *Rakyat*,” Senator Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Unity & Key Performance Indicators) added. “Crime has been consistently identified by the *Rakyat* as one of the top two issues that

concerns them most. Crime is public enemy No. 1, and hence the urgency to quickly and effectively address the issue. But reducing and preventing crime is a huge task. Reducing crime and the fear of crime requires us to address some polarities in Malaysia. Crime per capita varies considerably across the country and so too does the impact crime has on the *Rakyat*'s quality of life."

The key objective of the crime reduction NKRA is to improve public safety across Malaysia over the next two to three years and achieve visible results within the first six to 12 months. This will be done through targeted actions focused on delivering three desired outcomes:

1. Achieving sustained reductions in reported index crimes, with a focus on street crimes (for instance, snatch theft, robberies without firearms and gang robberies without firearms)
2. Improving public perception of safety by promoting public participation and shared responsibility through volunteerism, especially amongst youth and across races
3. Driving operational excellence in the criminal justice system to build public confidence and strengthen professional pride across the system

Hishammuddin said addressing crime as a whole will have the impact of increasing the sense of security felt by the *Rakyat* in addition to enabling Malaysia to remain in the ranks of safe countries for tourism and business investments. The latter, Hishammuddin pointed out, is especially crucial when taking into account that the World Bank's Malaysia Investment Climate Assessment survey found that businesses are increasingly concerned about crime, theft and disorder.

"In October 2009, we established a Crime Lab bringing together agencies from across the criminal justice system and the government," Koh who is also Chairman of the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) of the Prime Minister's Office said. "In total more than 30 representatives from relevant ministries and agencies, as well as the private sector, worked together to set targets for reducing crime in Malaysia. That's not

all. These targets were supported by strategies focused on the three desired outcomes and detailed implementation plans were developed to achieve them.”

Hishammuddin said top on the government’s agenda in the crime reduction NKRA is to significantly reduce street crime (in the Malaysian context, street crimes encompass three index crime types – snatch theft, individual robbery with firearms and gang robbery without firearms). “This is especially critical because street crimes are traumatic in nature and have a significant impact on people’s perception of safety and therefore on their lifestyles,” Hishammuddin pointed out. “Fear of crime may prevent people from going to certain urban areas and in some cases may make people afraid of leaving their homes in the evening.”

According to Hishammuddin, approximately 30 percent of Malaysian street crimes were snatch thefts and 83 percent of snatch thefts were committed by motorbike riders. Other startling statistics include: more than 87 percent of those arrested for snatch thefts were Malaysians (less than 13 percent were foreigners), and 87 percent of snatch thefts’ victims were female.

A comprehensive initiative to reduce street crime was launched in August 2009, and the government’s target is to achieve at least a 5 percent reduction in overall reported index crime every year for the next three years. But with the focus on reducing street crime, Hishammuddin said the government is aiming for even speedier and tangible results – a 20 percent reduction in reported street crimes by this year end.

To effectively combat street crime, Hishammuddin said the government has launched a host of key initiatives to establish a policing omnipresence. Among them:

### **1. Police Omnipresence**

There will be police omnipresence in 50 hot spots in the targetted four states (Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Selangor and Penang).

## **2. CCTVs in Hot Spots**

Almost 500 close-circuit televisions (CCTVs) have been placed in these hot spots to deter criminals and to enable the police to identify offenders.

## **3. Partnerships at the Local Level to Reduce Street Crimes**

This has been established through the Safe Cities Programme (SCP). The SCP brought together the police, local councils, the National Anti-Drugs Agency, Welfare Department and other relevant bodies to tackle local problems with localised initiatives.

## **4. High Profile Policing**

This involves senior police officers (ranked Inspector and above) doing walkabouts in commercial areas, streets and residential areas. Dressed in full uniform, they will patrol together with beat policemen for at least three hours a week.

## **5. Stop and Talk**

All mobile police vehicles (MPVs) and Community Police will stop and talk to the people on the ground for 10-15 minutes of every hour during regular patrols.

## **6. Feet on Street (FOS) Programme**

Police, supported by volunteers, will patrol in hot spots to deter criminals and reassure the general public.

Hishammuddin also said in order to encourage volunteerism from community members to help fight crime, the government is expanding current schemes such as Volunteer Patrol Scheme (SRS) and Rakan Cop, and will also work with groups such as Residents' Associations and Rukun Tetangga, to harness the energies of their members to this end.

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