

Crime rate up 15 per cent

N.S.T p8 8 31.1.07

■ **By June Ramli and V. Shuman**

news@nst.com.my

NILAI: The figures are worrying—crime is up more than 15 per cent nationwide.

Every state, except Kedah, recorded an increase in crime last year. The number of serious crimes has also gone up.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan is not perturbed. He has laid his battle plans. He is now waiting for the results.

"We simply have to be more aggressive in seeing these measures through," he told the *New Straits Times* yesterday.

Since he took over the top cop's position in September, Musa has announced several radical changes, the latest being the rehiring of retired officers on a contract basis.

He wants the experienced officers to remain in the force to assist and guide junior policemen.

Musa also introduced foot patrols in the city involving senior police officers who previously were assigned to desk duties.

The IGP had also announced the recruitment of 60,000 new personnel, the biggest recruitment drive to enhance the strength of the force. In addition to that, some 2,000 new police cars are ready

CRIME INDEX (January to December 2006)				
Ranking	State	Cases		+/-
		2005	2006	
1	Perlis	596	835	239
2	Penang	12,407	16,229	3,822
3	Sarawak	9,759	12,495	2,736
4	Malacca	4,876	5,978	1,102
5	Kuala Lumpur	20,689	25,236	4,547
6	Terengganu	4,745	5,728	983
7	Kelantan	4,816	5,800	984
8	Negri Sembilan	5,914	6,912	998
9	Selangor	47,499	54,270	6,771
10	Johor	24,945	28,469	3,524
11	Perak	11,593	12,881	1,288
12	Sabah	6,354	6,948	594
13	Pahang	5,804	6,104	300
14	Kedah	11,607	10,737	-870
TOTAL		171,604	198,622	27,018

for use to increase patrols.

"Everything is in place. I will continue to make surprise visits to all police stations nationwide to ensure that these measures are being implemented," Musa said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's department Datuk Maximus Ongkili said the crime figures, though worrying, should not dampen the spirit of police or the public.

"Our police's solving rate is 50 per cent while the Interpol has a solving rate of 22 per cent," Ongkili said.

Police, he said, are taking several measures to reduce the crime rate but it would take some time before they yield results.

"In the meantime, the public have to assist the police," said Ongkili, who is also the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) chairman.

The MCPF, he said, was actively supporting the police with campaigns and programmes on crime prevention.

Two weeks from now, the foundation will go on a road show, advising residents to take extra precautions during the coming Chinese New Year holidays.

He also said MCPF would be organising a conference on community policing later this year with the hope that more organisations would come forward and do their part in increasing security.

On the reasons for the increase in the crime index, Ongkili attributed it to unemployment and drugs.

He said MCPF was conducting various programmes in schools, private and public higher learning institutions and working with the police on various activities to educate the public on crime prevention.