

Rise in crime index worrisome for government

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KUALA LUMPUR: The crime index rose 15.74% last year, prompting Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili to express concern.

He said the number of cases, which included commercial crime, increased from 171,604 to 198,622 cases.

"Property crime made up almost 70% of the crime cases last year, while commercial crime contributed less than 10%. Violent crime made up the rest," he said.

"As for property crime, theft of motorcycles and lorries were the most common, with 50% of the cases carried out by the unemployed and drug addicts."

Ongkili, who is also Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) chairman, earlier signed a memorandum of understanding on behalf of MCPF with Malaysian Association of Private Colleges and Universities to renew their ties and create awareness of crime pre-

vention among individuals in private universities and colleges.

He said there were 2,498 Crime Prevention Clubs in schools, especially secondary schools, and the MCPF hoped to expand the number to private colleges and universities.

Meanwhile, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan urged the public not to be alarmed by the increase as police had recently added 10 more crimes into the crime index list.

The addition was to enable the police to identify the perpetrators of such crimes, and to monitor them.

Among the crimes added into the index are outraging modesty, causing hurt and criminal intimidation, rioting, cheating, extortion, criminal breach of trust, computer crime, and trafficking in and possession of dangerous drugs.