

# Crime reduction exceeds target

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**SAFER STREETS:** Crime index drops over last three years, thanks to Omnipresence Programme and new initiatives

THE initiatives under the Reducing Crime National Key Result Area (CRI-NKRA) of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) resulted in a significant drop in the crime index over the last three years.

Malaysia recorded a much lower rate of crime in that period, compared with countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The nation's crime rate, which citizens identified as one of their biggest concerns, saw a reduction that exceeded the target set under GTP 1.0, attributed largely to a shift from sector-based policing to hotspot-based policing.

Two key programmes imple-

mented to that effect were the flagship Omnipresence Programme targeted at crime-prone areas like schools and shopping malls, and the Safe City Programme (SCP), which currently covers 151 local district authorities.

The Omnipresence Programme was designed to increase the public presence of the police force to dissuade crime and foster a better ties between the police and the public.

The programme involved initiatives such as dialogues between district police and its community, and mobile information centres to communicate security concerns

with the public. The Police Volunteer Reserves and voluntary forces such as the People's Volunteer Corps (Rela) conducted additional patrols in hot spots, leading to a reduction in street crime last year by 41.3 per cent from 2009.

The SCP was a joint effort by government agencies, local councils and police to improve security in public places.

Another step taken under the programme was the integration of crime data from the Police Reporting System with the award-winning Safe City Monitoring System (SCMS) to improve the re-



## National Key Performance Indicator for Crime 2012

INFOGRAPHIC: NST

KPI	2012 target (%)	2012 results (%)
Reduction in reported index crime	5 <small>(5% based on 2011 achievement)</small>	7.6
Reduction in reported street crime	45 <small>(45% based on 2009 achievement)</small>	41.3
Reduce fear of becoming a victim of crime	45	57.3
Increase in the number of arrest cases brought to trial (charge rate)	25	34.7
Improved public perception of police performance	65	65.7

sponse rate to emergencies.

Thanks to its success, SCP won the "Future City of the Year 2012" award at the FutureGov summit in Vietnam last year.

Apart from that, the GTP annual report 2012 released yesterday also highlighted significant leaps in community policing and the number of arrests brought to trial.

The United Against Crime campaign was launched to encourage greater community participation and awareness, besides educating the public on security procedures during emergencies.

The report, however, indicated more could be done to reduce the disparity between the number of arrests and those brought before the courts, with efforts under way for the next phase to increase policing resources, including investigation and forensic teams.

GTP 2.0, to run over the next three years, will build on the strengths and address the weaknesses of its predecessor, with programmes that will strike a better balance between action and community engagement on the police's part.