

ELECTIONS '08 DAILY POLICY FACTSHEET #4: CRIME AND SAFETY

CPPS is pleased to bring to you its “**CPPS Policy Fact Sheet**” as a build-up to the **Malaysian General Elections 2008**. In this daily series between nominations and polling day, we will explore **key policy issues** that we feel are important in informing your voting decision. Policy decisions made by leaders have a direct effect on your life as a citizen, and the elections is this one crucial time you decide on your leaders. We hope these fact sheets will be useful policy briefs as you decide whom to vote for. Here's to an **educated and informed voting public** in Malaysia! Please click [here](#) to view all Policy Fact Sheets

BACKGROUND

Crime rates have increased significantly over recent months and years, specifically urban crime rate. In light of this, this fact sheet will focus on **the rise of violent and property crime rates** in our country, especially violence against women. **Rapid urbanization** is one of the key factors contributing to escalating crime rates, a common trend around the world. This has caused real fear amongst the public at large, most prominently amongst women and children whose lives are most directly affected. A strong police force is needed to combat crime; currently less than 8% of the Royal Malaysian Police force is directly fighting crime, whilst low salaries unfortunately force officers to seek other sources of income. We also need policies that will regain the people's confidence in the law. Parties and candidates should reveal key strategies that can **immediately** arrest these problems and ease the worries of the rakyat. These strategies should recognize that the implementation of **good economical polices** and **strong human rights awareness** within the community are also crucial to **lowering violent crime rates**.*



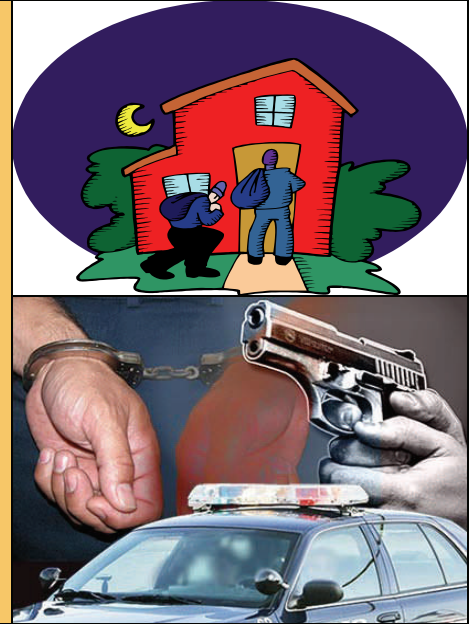
*To read more on this subject, please refer to “Good Policy Can Lower Violent Crime: Evidence from a Cross-National Panel of Homicide Rates, 1980-97” *Journal of Peace Research* by Eric Neumayer of London School of Economics

Quick Recap

- 17 June 2003– Canny Ong’s body was found. She was raped, tortured, stabbed, strangled before being set ablaze. Ahmad Najib confesses to murdering her and faces death sentence.
- 16 January 2004— **Nurul Huda Abdul Ghani** was found battered and almost lifeless by her brother. She had been brutally raped and murdered before dying in the arms of her brother.
- 20 January 2004—Jamaluddin Saripudin pleaded guilty to raping and murdering 10 year old **Hasirawati Saridi** in Menggatal, Sabah.
- 15 January 2006– **Chee Gaik Yap** is reported as missing. Ten hours later, her body is found. Autopsy shows that she had been raped and murdered.
- 29 June 2006 - An undated video taken from a website shows a **secondary school student slapping another girl** at a beach in Miri, Sarawak. The video also showed the other girls kicking, slapping, punching and pulling the girl's hair, was first circulated on mobile phones
- October 2006—**Shaariibuugin Altantuyaa**'s remains were found destroyed by a C4 (a military plastic explosive). The trial of this high-profile murder is still ongoing.
- 13 June 2007 - A **19-year-old girl was raped by three men** as her 22-year-old boyfriend could only watch helplessly, after he had been slashed twice.
- 16 August 2007-Three years after **Siti Syazwani**, who was 9 years old when she was raped, murdered and found dead in a drain, death, her father reports that the case has not been resolved.
- 21 September 2007— **Nurin Jazlin Jazimin** is laid to rest after the eight year old's remains were found stuffed in a sports bag.
- 13 December 2007 - **Irmaliana Irazal**, 21, was stabbed to death by two men on a motorcycle who blocked her path several meters from her house
- 28 February 2008 — Posters looking for five year old **Sharlinie Mohd Nashar** still scatter the city.

BASIC STATISTICS AND FACTS

- **Malaysian Quality of Life Index (MQLI)** shows that crimes per 1000 population have doubled from 3.8 to 7.1 between 1990 and 2000.
- **The Crime Index worsened** from 156,315 cases in 2003 to 224,298 cases in 2007 (45% rise over past four years), increasing 13.4% in 2007 alone.
- **Crime rate in Malaysia increased** by 8.7% for the first five months of 2007 compared to 2006.
- **Violent crime increased** by 85% from 2003 to 2006.
- **Selangor** is the state with the **highest crime rates** for both petty and violent crimes. Most of the crime takes place in **high-density population areas** like **Petaling Jaya (Selangor)** where the **police to population ratio is 1: 1154**. See *Visuals* for crime rates in Selangor and Johor.
- **News Straits Times** reports that while the general crime rate in '07 January to June had dropped, there has been an **increase** in number of rape cases.
- To understand such statistics reports better, see our section on **“Reading the Royal Malaysia Police Statistics.”**
- Opposition leader Lim Guan Eng tells IPS (Interpress News Agency) that in the last 7 months of 2007, there were five times as many unreported rape cases, making **“Malaysia the ‘crime capital’ of Southeast Asia.**
- Statistics show that **95% of our prisoners** were earning **below** Malaysian income per capita.



VISUALS

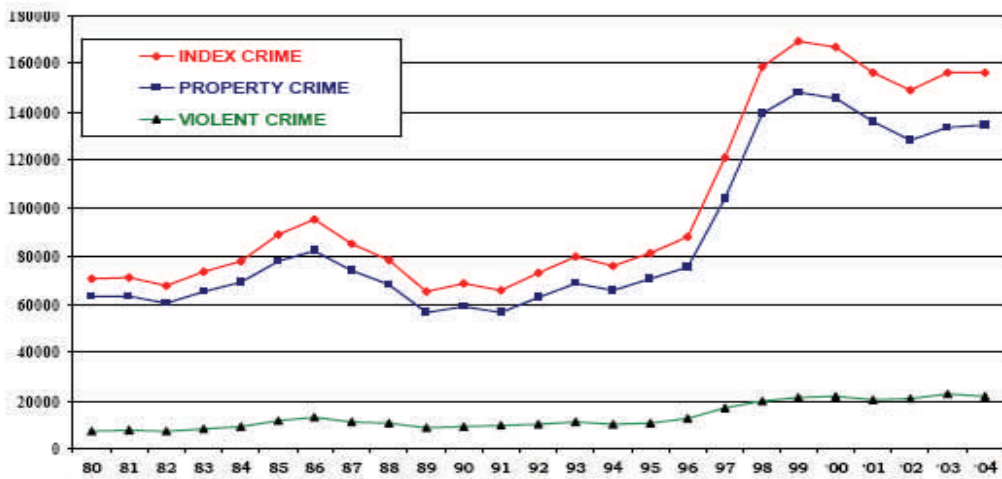
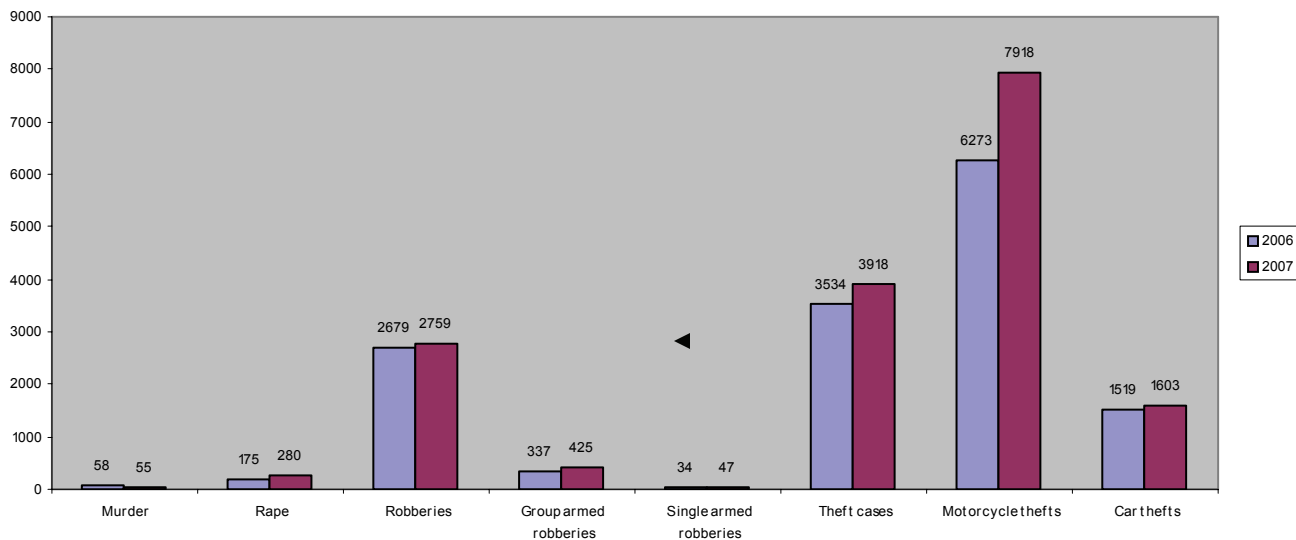


Fig 5. Crime Statistics in Malaysia 1980 – 2004²²

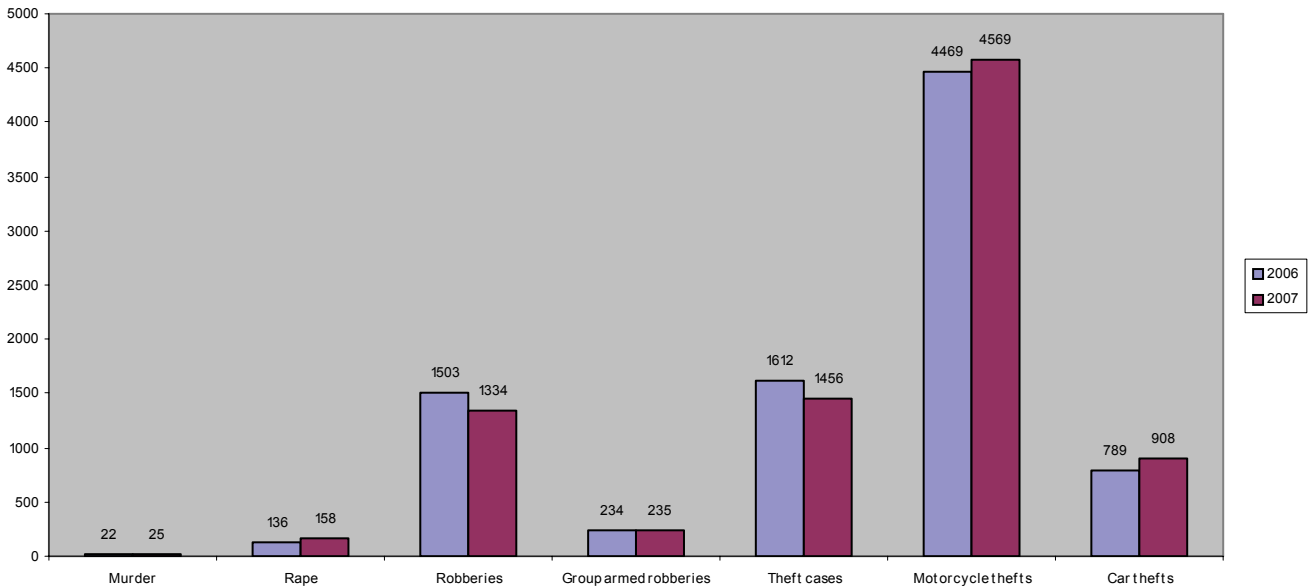
Based on **fig 5***:

- Crimes related to property account for **90% of all crimes** reported last year.
- While violent crime, which had the greatest attention from the media and public, makes up **only 10%**.
- Property crime shows a **volatile growth pattern** peaking during the two economic downturns in the country.

*data was obtained from the Journal of the Kuala Lumpur Royal Malaysia Police College, No. 4, 2005 (p. 9) .



SELANGOR



JOHOR

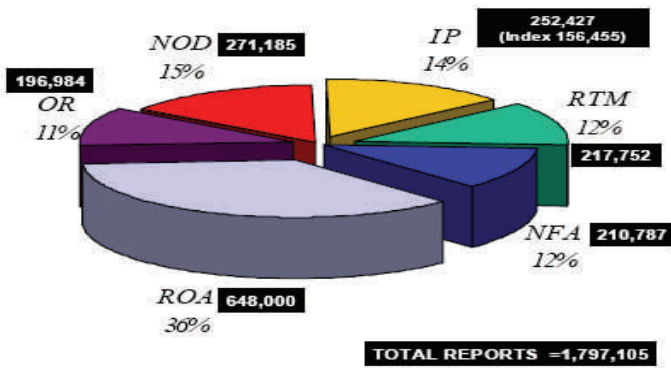


Fig. 4: Police Reports Classification for 2004

Fig 4 is a review of the figure that makes up the Royal Police Crime Index. A review of the 2004 police reports made, only **14% were investigated by the police (IP)**. The rest were Refer to Magistrate (**RTM**), No Further Action (**NFA**), No Offence Disclosed (**NOD**), Refer to Other Agencies (**ROA**) or Other Reports (**OR**).*

* Taken from the Journal of the Kuala Lumpur Royal Malaysia Police College, No. 4, 2005 (pg.7)

Year	Number of Crimes by Foreigners	% of Total Crimes Committed by Foreigners	Crimes by Foreigners per 1000 Foreigners	Crimes by Malaysians per 1000 Malaysians
1992	1,333	1.8	3.8	3.8
1993	1,746	2.2	4.0	4.0
1994	757	1.0	1.6	3.7
1995	2,171	2.7	12.1	3.9
1996	2,019	2.3	2.2	4.1
1997	1,599	1.3	1.7	5.5
1998	2,385	1.5	2.4	7.1
1999	3,970	2.3	3.8	7.3
2000	3,488	2.1	3.0	7.0
2001	3,364	2.1	3.9	6.4
2002	3,113	2.1	3.3	6.0
Average			3.8	5.3

Fig. 12: Statistics of Crimes by Foreigners from 1992 - 2002⁵⁵

Monthly Income(RM)	Total Prisoners	Percentage
Unemployed	8,543	17.3 %
Below 250	4,027	8.2 %
250 - 500	11,880	24.1 %
500-750	14,778	30 %
750 - 1000	7,573	15.5 %
1000 - 1500	1,696	3.4 %
1500 - 3000	746	1.5 %
Total	49, 243	100 %

95 % are earning below Malaysian per capita income.

Fig 9: Convicted Prisoners by Monthly Income⁴⁸

READING THE INDEX CRIME

Official statistics on crime and criminals are highly dependent on different branches of the criminal justice system. Police statistics are **LIMITED** to offences detected, reported and recorded. It is also limited by its scope. If the reported crime is missing certain criteria, it cannot be included in the index crime. So **learn what the index crime really is:**

What does index crime mean?

Index Crime means crimes that are reported with *sufficient regularity* and with *sufficient significance* to be meaningful as an index to the crime situation”

What does “sufficient regularity” encompass?

“Sufficient regularity” are offences that occur in regularity and commonly. For example, kidnapping though a distressing offence is not considered common. Therefore, it is not factored into the crime index. On the other hand, snatch theft although is small in gravity is included in the index.

When is an occurrence considered a crime?

When it is reported either by the **victim**, **witness** or on the initiative of the **police** upon discovery of a criminal activity.

The Royal Malaysia Police does acknowledge a gap between reported and unreported crime, which is known as “**dark figures.**” Reported crime is necessary to the index because it has to give a specific type of reflection of the crime’s extent.

How many types of crimes are included in the index crime?

The Index crime is divided into two categories:

(i) Violent Crime: murder, attempted murder, gang robbery with firearm, gang robbery without firearm, robbery without firearm, rape and voluntarily causing hurt.

(ii) Property Crime: There are 7 categories to this, including housebreaking and theft by day and night, theft of lorries and van, motor cars and scooters.

Snatch Theft: because of its sufficient regularity, it has been recorded as a separate index crime.

All information from this section is from <http://mpk.rmp.gov.my/jurnal/2005/riseofcrime.pdf> . For more details, please download this pdf file.

Who are the players?

- **The 2008 Budget** will give an Accelerated Capital Allowance for the purchase of security and surveillance equipment. No mention of the maintenance for these equipment was made.
- **Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi** (also Internal Security Minister): “Police will recruit 60,000 personnel,... police training centers will be expanded, ... retiring police officers will be offered three-year extensions.”
- **Royal Commission to Enhance the Operation and Management of the Royal Malaysia Police** was established in 2004; one recommendation was to establish the IPCMC (Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission) to increase accountability to the public.
- However, a recent decision was made to establish the **Special Complaints Commission (SCC)** instead of the IPCMC.
- **Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation:** Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye (Vice Chairman) “A safe community can only be realized if the private and public sectors work together as partners to improve the safety and health of citizens.” MCPF has a Crime Prevention Club and a Safe City Initiative
- **Internal Security Ministry:** Datuk Johari Baharum: “The police must explain the 40% surge in crime in Kuala Lumpur.” (for the first three months of 2007)
- **RELA**, or the People’s Volunteer Corps, regularly assists the police in arrest and detention operations. There have been complaints against them, citing theft and extortion by members themselves.

PARTY STANDS

BN promises to lower the country’s crime index and focus police operations and resources in crime hot spots across the country.

9th Malaysia Plan states that efforts will be taken to enhance the maintenance of public safety and security to further improve the quality of life.

9th Malaysia Plan aims to reduce violence against women. The government will work with NGOs by running awareness and training programmes to better understand gender roles and expectations.

2008 Budget allocates a sum of **RM 6 billion** to the Royal Malaysian Police to fight crime.

MCA stresses that combating crime is our shared Responsibility.

DAP: The government must not forget its primary duty of crime prevention by establishing the four basic rights of security to allow everyone the right to live, work, study and play in a safe and secure environment.

DAP’s Shadow Budget takes a *holistic approach* to battling crime through education, implementing a “FairWage” policy, and channeling funds to NGOs to run various social programmes. **RM 240 million** will be set aside for such funds.

PKR vows to redirect the full energies every law enforcement agency back exclusively into fighting crime.

PAS: To turn the Royal Police Force into a professional body that is ‘citizen-friendly’ and a crime fighting organization with better service schemes and training facilities.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- An **Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPMC)** should be established to enhance the Royal Malaysia Police.
- The **private sector** should be given an increased authority to undertake some select roles of security, through, for example, an Auxiliary Police Force.
- The RM 6 billion allotment towards lowering crime in the 9th Malaysia Plan should include sophisticated crime-fighting tools like Geo-Reference Information System (GIS) to pinpoint problem neighbourhoods and training of police officers to utilizing such tools.
- **Independent Public Surveys of crime** (both reported and unreported crime) should be conducted to complement the official index crime.
- **Community policing:** Use existing **Rukun Tetangga committees** (with current membership of 8 million people in Malaysia) as Crime Watch groups in neighbourhoods, with **regulated cooperation** with Residents' Associations, the Police, NGOs, businesses, Crime Foundations and the Government.
- **Stricter law enforcement** in adherence to the **rule of law:** an effective system of rules accompanied with effective enforcement and an ethical accountable government in implementing them.
- **Human rights programmes** should be integrated into our national education system to sensitize young Malaysians to the awareness of human rights principals.

How Well Do You Know Your Candidate?

Questions to think about:

- i. What has the incumbent candidate/party done in respect to tackling crime over the past term?
- ii. What measures would you hold/expect the next minister to carry out to reduce crime over the next term?
- iii. What are the concrete measures and strategies outlined by each of the candidates in order to increase security and reduce crime?
- iv. Does the candidate possess adequate understanding of the issue and able to speak out at all levels of government in order to increase safety especially in formulating related policies.