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Enlightening talk on crime prevention

Anna Yusof

IN view of the forthcoming festive seasons, Shah Alam City Council held a talk, "Role and Awareness Towards Crime Prevention in Shah Alam", recently.

The talk was held at the Renantanda Room, Wisma MBSA in Shah Alam.

It was conducted by Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation (Selangor branch) activity committee chairman Kamal Affandi Hashim.

Also present were Shah Alam Datuk Bandar Datuk Salamon Selamat, Shah Alam City Council department heads and councillors.

Salamon, in his speech, said each individual should come forward and work closely with the authorities to help prevent crimes at all times, especially during the festive seasons.

"Although the crime rate in Shah Alam is low compared with other cities, prevention is still a smart move," he said.

"This can be achieved by remembering the importance of being alert at all times among the public."

During his presentation, Kamal Affandi gave reasons why housing estates, shopping complexes and car parks were more exposed to crimes.

"The public must understand that at these places, the criminal has a higher chance of succeeding in his act based on opportunities," he said.

"If the criminal is one who has done his homework before he strikes, there's an even better chance that he'll not get caught."

Kamal Affandi also elaborated on the three types of victims - victims by chance, victims by choice and victims due to their own ignorance.

"The authorities have embarked on all sorts of campaigns, including in the media and using signboards and pamphlets to raise public awareness on the need to be alert at all times," he said.

"The Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation is working on ways to heighten public awareness on their safety by working closely with the local authorities.

"However good the co-operation may be, the success still depends on the participation of individuals in crime prevention activities instead of being a passive citizen."

Kamal Affandi said by preventing or minimising crime rates would help the Government cut cost - by as much as RM28,000 a case as each criminal case involved time and manpower when it is brought to trial.

The Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation was established on Jan 12, 1993 and became the first chapter to be established outside Japan.

It was launched by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the foundation's patron.

The foundation aims to contribute to the enhancement of effective measures for crime prevention and treatment of offenders by way of survey, research and programmes on solidarity basis and mutual co-operation among persons involved with the criminal justice system in countries in the Asian region.

The foundation's objectives also include promoting public awareness on crime prevention as well as getting their participation in efforts in line with the Government's call.

Being a non-governmental body, the foundation has undertaken several projects like organising, co-ordinating and promoting activities to prevent crime as well as assisting other organisations in crime prevention efforts.

