



# Crime down 32% since January

By JOSHUA FOONG  
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Hishammuddin: The most important thing is to maintain our efforts to achieve our NKRA target of reducing the crime index by 5%, and street crime by 20%, by the end of this year.

Since the implementation of the various initiatives under the crime National Key Result Area (NKRA) of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) street crime has been reduced by 32% for the first quarter of 2010, said Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

He said for the first quarter of last year 9,984 cases were reported while during the same period this year it went down to 6,158 cases.

Last year, he said 52,987 criminal cases were reported during the first quarter and the figure dropped by 7,979 cases to 45,008 cases during the same period this year.

"Although the statistics are very encouraging, the most important thing is to maintain our efforts and ensure we achieve our National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) target of reducing the crime index by 5 percent and street crime by 20 percent by end of this year," he said.

"It is up to us to keep up the good work and push further our efforts to combat crime," he said, adding that he attributed the successful first quarter to the hard work and determination of the force.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala, who is also chief executive officer of Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) also spoke on the matter last month, saying such results of a reduced crime rate could not have been possible without the strong commitment from the ministry and civil servants.

Special Officer to Home Minister Datuk Lau Yeng Peng said the ministry had taken a series of proactive measures to bring down the street crime index and crime index, such as increasing police presence and establishing more Malaysian Police Training Centres (Pulapol).

"More Pulapol centres will be built under the 10th Malaysia Plan to train more new police officers," Lau said.

Among other initiatives being rolled out are the deployment of 496 CCTVs by the end of this year and the reactivation of 337,459 Rakan Cop members.

Private and Government-linked companies, local councils and statutory bodies also have been roped in for the



first time to help fight crime.

Hishammuddin said many were aware of the effectiveness of an integrated approach and close co-operation between the police and auxiliary force to help reduce crime.

He said the latest initiative by the Government was an additional approach to community policing besides RELA, village committees and Rakan Cop.

"The police target is to reduce crime and with people feeling safer, the value of properties will rise," Hishammuddin said.

## CORRUPTION PROGRESS

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has made 144 arrests in the first three months of this year, of which, 46 have already been charged in court, said MACC investigation director Commissioner Mustafar

Ali.

He said the MACC was intensifying its reach in its efforts to curb corruption, adding that the NKRA strategies related to the Commission had broadened its empowerment.

The Government has agreed to add more personnel and the commission is in the process of recruiting but because of constraints, Mustafar said hiring will be done in phases.

The Government has also deployed several policies and framework to facilitate better enforcement against corruption offenders. Among them:

> the Whistleblower Protection Bill which has been tabled recently to provide protection to whistleblowers who expose corruption or improper conduct.

Whistleblowers would also have immunity from civil and criminal actions.

## Crime watch

Early signs are positive Q1 2010 resulting in incentive announcement by the PM to boost morale of the police force...

	United Kingdom*	Hong Kong**	Malaysia	Singapore***
Population (mil)	62	7	28	5
Crime cases (mil per annum)	4.9	0.071	0.211	0.032
Index crime (per 100,000 population)	7,903	1,014	753	640

\* Data taken from Home Office UK(2009)  
\*\* Hong Kong crime data taken from www.police.gov.hk (2008)  
\*\*\* Taken from www.asiaone.com; data 2008

Meanwhile, cash rewards will be offered to encourage Malaysians to disclose wrongdoings in the public and private sectors.

While the quantum of the cash reward has not been finalised, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said: "The main aim of conferring protection to the whistleblowers is to encourage him to come forward to disclose improper conduct by eliminating any kind of fear or risk that may hinder him from doing so".

> Also details of bids for government tenders will now be open for public viewing via the government's tender portal known as MyProcurement at <http://myprocurement.treasury.gov>.

The move is to boost transparency and to discourage any corrupt practices in the awarding of projects and procurement.

The portal will comprise tender advertisements and the names of successful bidders will be uploaded on a regular basis to ensure "real-time" information is disseminated.

> The Court Registrar's Office has published a circular to resolve corruption cases in court within a year. Currently the court take up an average of 3.3 years for trials, and 5.2 years for appeals.

These lengthy trials and appeals have increased the opportunity for material witnesses to go missing, witness and evidence tampering, and fading of witness memory as well as witnesses get-

ting frustrated or losing interest in the case and thus becoming uncooperative.

In line with this, 14 Special Corruption Sessions Courts and four Special Corruption High Courts have been included in the 2010 Budget and will be established to accelerate trials for corruption.

> The MACC launched its 'name and shame' offender database on April 7 beginning with 52 names in its database of offenders. There are 95 names now.

The database is accessible by the public, including employers, intending to conduct background checks on certain individuals.

The database consists of full names of convicted offenders from Jan 1, 2010.

Among other details are the offender's identity card number, profession, and the offence committed as mentioned in the charge sheet and the penalty.

The database will only remove the names of offenders after three years if there were no repeat offences.

> The Government has also issued a circular to provide guidance for civil servants in handling support letters, which are often used to exert influence on civil servants in order to circumvent standard government policies and processes in obtaining contracts. The circular also advises civil servants to ensure that due process and regulations be upheld and not be subverted by such support letters.

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# Better lives for the hardcore poor

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Shahrizat: Four months after NKRA implementation, we only have 32,271 hardcore poor families left in the list from 44,643.

**W**OMEN, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil has vowed to help families that are categorised as hardcore poor under the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) by the end of 2010. Under the GTP, hardcore poverty is defined as households with income less than RM440 per month.

She said that her confidence in achieving this goal was based on the positive advances made under the Low Income Household National Key Result Area (LIH-NKRA).

"When the NKRA was first introduced, we had 44,643 hardcore poor families listed in the eKasih system. Now, after four months of implementation, we have managed to reduce this number to 32,271 hardcore poor families," she said.

Shahrizat explained that the reduction of 12,372 households is a result of Government financial assistants. Reduction is further attributed to the commencement of poverty eradication programmes, hence resulting in the migration of those in the hardcore poor to the poor category.

According to Shahrizat, the Ministry has been allocated RM580 million to implement IAZAM, an income-generating programme aimed at lifting the poor out of poverty through productive means (productive welfare). The IAZAM programme, which consists of four sub-categories – AZAM Tani, AZAM Khidmat, AZAM Kerja and AZAM Niaga – is intended to decrease sole reliance on the provision of monetary



**Fighting poverty:** Shahrizat in a light moment with recipients of a special donation from the National Welfare Foundation after launching the IAZAM programme at Serian in Sarawak in mid-March. 102 individuals received RM300 each.

aid as a method to reduce poverty. The IAZAM initiative also aims to instill in participants self-reliance in order for them to be independent.

"The approach to tackle poverty must be holistic and comprehensive in nature. We are currently differentiating between those who are able to work (productive) and those who are unable to work due to factors such as disability and age (non-productive)," she said, adding that while her ministry will continue disbursing monetary aid to non-productive individuals, MWFCDD will also provide productive heads of

households' opportunities to become self-reliant.

At present, the Ministry is undertaking a needs-based analysis to determine which of the four IAZAM programmes best suits the target groups' interests. AZAM Niaga aims to assist participants generate business opportunities through training and micro-credit facilities; AZAM Tani facilitates participation in agriculture-based activities; AZAM Kerja offers participants low and semi-skilled employment opportunities that do not require high education qualifications; and AZAM

Khidmat is tailored for individuals interested in self-employment.

Implementation of these initiatives is spearheaded by the MWFCDD, in collaboration with other project 'champions' – relevant ministries that will be implementing each of the IAZAM initiatives. The Ministry is also working closely with State Governments, particularly in Sabah and Sarawak, where 78 percent of Malaysia's hardcore poor population is located.

**Rural basic infrastructure progress**

The Rural and Regional Development Ministry will spend RM3.29 billion to provide various infrastructure facilities for the rural community including in Sabah and Sarawak under the National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) this year.

Its minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said the Cabinet had given the green light to his ministry to spend the allocation.

According to him, the amount was part of the RM18 billion allocation provided by the government to implement NKRA programmes nationwide.

"This is part of the government's efforts to intensify rural development and we will implement these programmes in a comprehensive manner in line with the Prime Minister's vision to give first priority to the people, especially those in rural areas," he said in March.

"The focus is not just in providing basic amenities such as water, electricity supply and village roads but also in helping the rural people to enhance their economy," he added.

Rural basic infrastructure development has been on track, according to PEMANDU. As of March, numerous four key areas are on target to meet its 2012 goals.

A total of 403.4km of roads were completed in the first three months of the year.

From the figure, 219km were in Peninsular Malaysia, 178.8km in Sabah and 5.2km in Sarawak.

Another 349km of roads, spanning 940km, will be completed by year-end.

Delivery is above target with 347 homes supplied with electricity – 49 homes in Peninsular Malaysia, 236 homes in Sabah and 62 homes in Sarawak.

Currently, there are 650 projects being implemented under the rural electrification supply initiative.

Once completed, 34,400 households stand to benefit from it.

Meanwhile, 818 homes in Peninsular Malaysia were connected with water supply.

There are 11 water treatment plants under construction, with a further 786 projects underway to connect 70,181 households to clean water.

Other than that, 387 houses in Peninsular Malaysia were also awarded to deserving recipients. By September, 7,000 families are expected to be the first beneficiaries of the programme.

To elevate the standards of living, over 16,000 rural houses will be built or restored. PEMANDU CEO Datuk Seri Idris Jala said between 2010 and 2012, the number of roads built would increase by 1,100 percent, water projects by 700 percent and electricity projects by 250 percent and there will be "massive improvements."

# Education progress – programmes off to a good start

THE new literacy and numeracy screening programme (Linus) for Year One pupils has got off to a favourable start.

Introduced by the Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in January, pupils would be monitored and subsequently tested after two months on where they stand on these skills.

The aim was to ensure pupils mastered the three R's – reading, writing and arithmetic – after three years of primary schooling.

The roadmap states that student-screening will be done three times a year in March, June and September, to help identify those who do not meet the relevant standards.

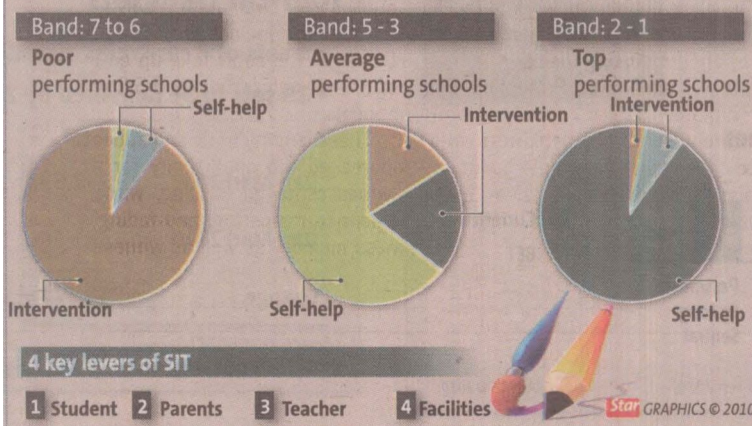
Students will then be placed into the Linus programme or into a special education programme if they have a learning disability.

To date 15,500 teachers have been trained to effectively deliver the learning modules.

The Education Ministry has also provided support to schools which identify problems they are facing through the School Improvement Programme (SIP).

Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister said with the SIP, schools were not left alone to solve their problems.

**The School Improvement Toolkit (SIT) will be deployed to improve the school's performance**



"This support is known as the service line and the needs of each school will be identified through the tool kit application on the SIP," he said, during the launch of the SIP on April 29.

The National Pre-School Curriculum Standard has been developed to ensure the level of standard and consistency among the schools.

It incorporates the principles of holistic education and includes activities to promote understanding among the different races.

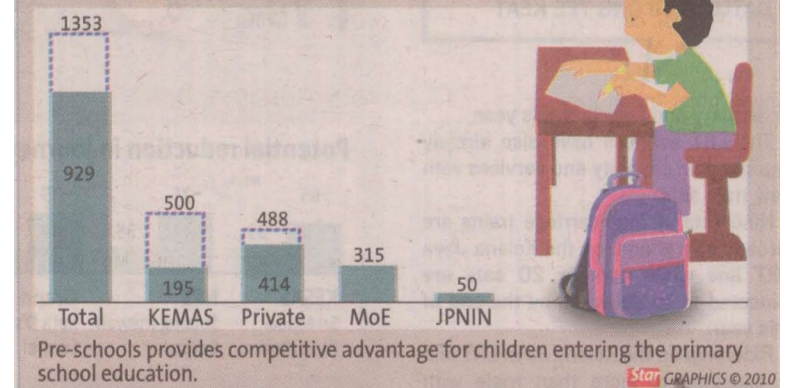
Targeted training programmes will

be offered to both teacher and teacher assistants to improve the skills of approximately 30,000 existing and new staff over the next three years.

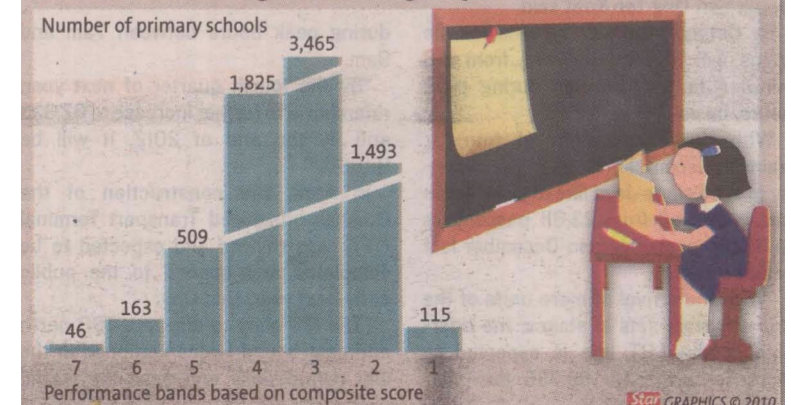
For newly-hired teachers and teacher assistants, the minimum qualification requirements will be elevated to graduate and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) level respectively.


The government also hopes that all children will have acquired basic literacy and numeracy skills after three years of education.

**929 pre-school classes have started in January 2010 (68% enrolment rate)**




**Results of rankings according to performance bands**






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# Big strides in Urban Public Transport

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Eight sets of four-carriage trains now operate the Kelana Jaya line with another 29 expected by the end of this year at the cost of RM1.65bil.

**T**HE Government is investing RM1.65 billion to fulfill the need to improve the services for city dwellers, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced.

"That is not a small amount of money and I am happy to see that the numerous initiatives to improve the services had shown positive effects," he said at the launching of RapidKL's Kelana Jaya Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 Malaysia four-car train in April.

He said RM1.12 billion was used to purchase 35 four-car trains while the balance was spent on upgrading the tracks and electrical system.

The Government is targeting to increase ridership for public transport services in the Klang Valley from 10 percent (in 2009) to 25 percent by the end of 2012 under the National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) initiatives for Urban Public Transport (UPT).

The first two months of this year saw an increase in ridership for public transport.

According to figures from the Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) in the Prime Minister's Department figures, bus ridership has improved to 130 percent and KTM Komuter load factor has hit 140 percent



Going places: Najib and Ong arriving at the RapidKL LRT depot at Jalan Lapangan Terbang Subang in the new car to launch RapidKL's Kelana Jaya Line 1 Malaysia four-car train.

»Waiting time for the trains would also be shortened from 2.8mins to two minutes during peak hours«

DATUK SERI ONG TEE KEAT

in January and February this year.

The LRT services have also already improved its capacity and services with new train sets.

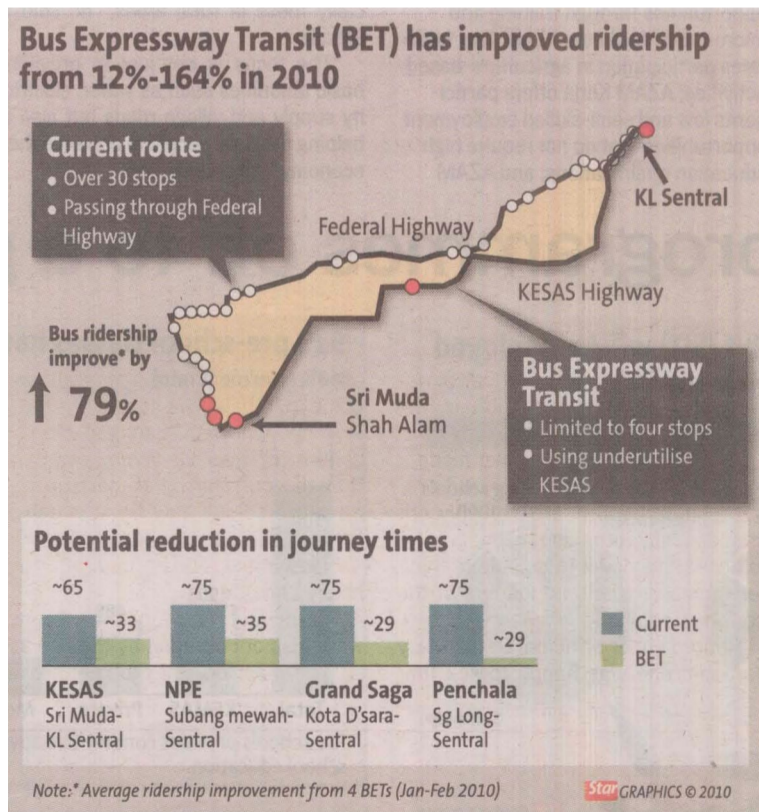
Nine sets of four-carriage trains are already operational on the Kelana Jaya LRT line while another 20 sets are expected to be delivered by the end of this year.

Ridership on the Kelana Jaya LRT line is expected to more than triple with 97,856 commuters during morning peak hours by end of 2012, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat said.

By October, the waiting time for the trains will also be reduced from 2.8 minutes to two minutes during peak hours, he said,

With the introduction of four-car trains in December last year, the capacity of the Kelana Jaya line at peak hours has increased from 23,611 passengers to 32,185 passengers in December last year, he said.

"With the arrival of more units of the four-car train sets in stages, the ridership of the LRT line is expected to increase further to 59,736 this year



during peak hours between 7am and 9am.

"By the fourth quarter of next year, ridership is to further increase to 62,333 and by the end of 2012, it will be 97,856,"

In April, the construction of the Gombak Integrated Transport Terminal (ITT) was revived and expected to be completed and opened to the public early next year, said Ong.

"The ITT aims to disperse 780 north and east-bound buses stationed in the city centre daily and ease the traffic

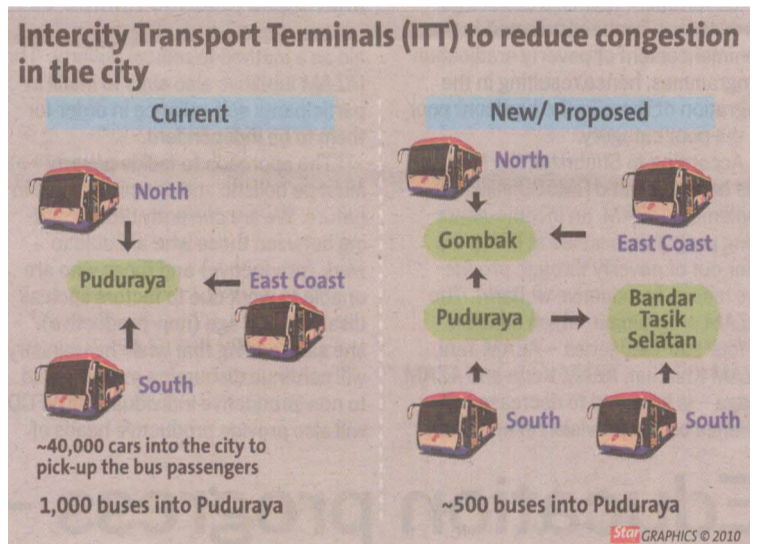
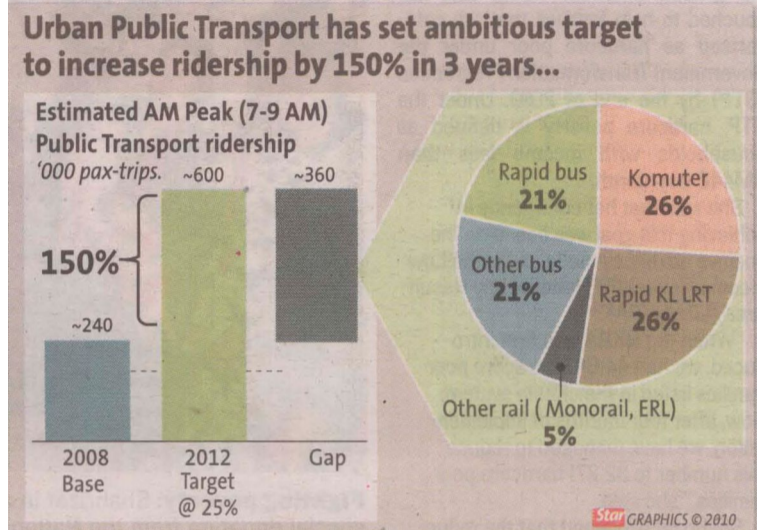
congestion," Ong said.

He said it has been designed to cater for inter-modal needs and have a capacity for 4,000 bus passengers a day.

"It will be disabled-friendly with a turnaround time of 20 minutes," he said, adding that the terminal would be renamed the East Integrated Terminal (Terminal Bersepadu Timur).

Construction of the privately-funded terminal is expected to begin in June.

The RM200 million terminal will be built in two phases on a 13.35ha plot, a stone's throw from the Putra LRT termi-



nal in Gombak.

According to Head of Delivery Management Office for Urban Public Transport National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) Ruhaizah Rashid, the first phase, which is expected to take nine months to complete, will house the bus platforms.

The second phase will have a double-storey car park and concourse area.

"In the first phase, both arrival and departure terminals will be in the first block. After the second phase is completed, we will separate the arrivals and departures," Ruhaizah added.

An ITT in Bandar Tasik Selatan is also currently under construction and is expected to be completed in July.

According to reports, the RM570 million project undertaken by Maju Holdings Sdn Bhd, will replace Puduraya as Kuala Lumpur's main terminal for southbound buses.

It is located next to the stations of the KLIA Express Rail Link, Star LRT and KTM Komuter, and will comprise a six-storey main terminal building, 21 bus departure bays, 18 bus arrival bays, 150 parking bays for taxis and 1,372 parking bays for cars.



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# Many believe NKRA is a positive step forward

The people share their thoughts on the government's move to implement the National Key Results Areas over various aspects of the public service.

**MANY** people feel that the National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) introduced by the Government is a positive effort and believed that the concept should be widened and improved for the benefit of the people.

Among the targets under the NKRA are improving urban public transport, reducing crime, reducing corruption, improving the quality of education, improving rural infrastructure and improving the living standards of the poor.

**Improving urban public transport**

Association for the Improvement of Mass Transit chairman Moaz Yusof Ahmad welcomed the implementation of the Rapid Bus Express Transit (RapidBET) in January, which has been cutting travel time between the suburbs and Kuala Lumpur's city centre by half.

He hoped such services would be quickly extended to link suburban areas to ease congestion during peak hours and for commuters to bypass the city centre.

College student Wong Chi Hao, 22, from Wangsa Maju in Kuala Lumpur, said he had benefited much from the improvement in train capacity especially on the Kelana Jaya line.

The four-car light rail transit trains, which can carry more passengers than the old trains, began operating along the Kelana Jaya LRT route at the end of last year.

"The four trains have really helped to ease the daily grind of sitting in overcrowded trains.

"I look forward to the full implementation of bigger capacity trains servicing commuters at greater frequencies," he said.

Self-employed Tracy Nonis, 55, applauds the Government's move to improve public transport under the policy but suggests that more consideration should be given to the elderly and disabled people.

"Other than building state-of-the-art and advanced facilities, the government should also think about installing ramps and shorter pathways for senior citizens and disabled people," she said.

**Reducing crime**

Student Mohd Syafiq Anis, 23, and businesswoman Prema Semple, 46 said that the NKRA introduced by the Government could tackle some of the major problems in the country includ-



**Rozana:** Applauds the Govt's NKRA plans.



**Mohd Syafiq:** 'The NKRA could tackle major problems including the rising crime rate.'



**Joan:** Govt's plan to fight corruption was a timely move.



**Sin Wee:** Especially likes that more children in rural areas would be ensured a good education.

ing the rising crime rate.

"The NKRA has compelled the government to begin implementing ways to fight crime such as increasing police presence on the streets which has resulted in a drop in the crime rate," he said.

Petaling Jaya resident Janelle Lee said she had observed more police patrols around her neighbourhood in Section 17.

"They now patrol my neighbourhood during the wee hours of the morning in teams of four everyday.

"It is a good showing by the cops. I heard from my friends that they arrive at situations faster now," she noted.

**Fighting corruption**

In the battle against corruption, the lab's target to improve the country's standing in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) had Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) president Datuk Paul Low lauding it.

He added that it was encouraging to see key performance index measures that were independent and internationally benchmarked; the Global Corruption Barometer and TI's CPI being adopted.

"There are many encouraging proposals such as tackling petty corrup-

tion in enforcement agencies and grand corruption by politicians and senior civil servants, protecting whistle-blowers and reducing leakages in Government procurement," Low added.

Meanwhile, 57-year-old retiree Joan Valperg, thought that the government's plan to fight corruption under the NKRA was a timely move.

"It is good to see that the Government is taking it into their hands to lessen corruption and increasing efficiency," she said.

**Improving the quality of education**

National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) secretary-general Lok Yim Pheng expressed her confidence that the implementation of high performing schools would set a trajectory in making education in the country world class.

"We can say that we have made it to international levels when we produce students who are not only apt academically but also have greater mindset and vision to be able to think for themselves and be leaders of the country," said Lok.

Retired super principal Datuk Mary Yap said she was happy to see that

pre-school education was being given a strong focus.

"This schooling phase plays a very effective role in preparing young learners before they start their primary school education," she said.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also the Education Minister, in February announced that grants and training would be given to private pre-schools that followed the ministry curriculum.

Madeline Kindergarten managing director Jeffrey Chew said the grant will play a crucial role in maintaining the rates of pre-school fees.

"In terms of generating more funds, pre-schools cannot charge fees beyond what the general public can afford. Here's where the grant can come in to help," he said.

Chew, who has managed his pre-school for over 12 years, estimates that the current initial start-up cost for a pre-school may be as much as RM200,000 in an urban setting.

"The initial outlay can be quite heavy," he added.

Pre-school operators in Penang were also encouraged by the news.

"The most crucial problem private

pre-schools face is the training of teachers. Most of them do not have professional training," said S. Kavita, the principal of Little Geeks Kindy in Bandar Baru Air Itam.

**Improving rural infrastructure**  
Publisher Goon Chern Yuet, 22, said development of rural infrastructure was important in the country's aspiration to be a developed nation by 2020.

"By providing the proper amenities, we can well say if the entire country has proper infrastructure, it will fulfill a big criteria in being a developed country," she said.

**Eradicating poverty**

Anna Purany, 65 said that the Government's action under the NKRA to raise the living standard of the people especially those in the lower-income group was critical for the nation to move forward.

"I feel happy to see that the Government is concerned about improving the quality of life of the urban poor," she said.

However, labourer Azemi Hashim, 43, said that the implementation of the NKRA should be continued even after it achieved the targets set by the Prime Minister.

# Good news for 246 families

## Each to receive RM600 allocation

**SIBU:** Some 246 families living in an under-developed region in Sungai Igan near here will receive a total of RM147,600 as a one-off allocation from the Federal Government.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said he had just received word that each of the families would receive RM600.

"The Prime Minister just informed me that he had approved the assistance for families from all the 12 longhouses in this area.

"Barisan Nasional is concerned about all people regardless of where they are living.

"Over the past 20 years, I have been visiting longhouses in the state but still, it is not possible for me to visit everyone.

"There is still a lot of work to do and the longhouse people must continue to remain loyal to Barisan," he said at Rumah Daniel, Tanjung Penasu, located along Sungai Igan.

He said in the eyes of Barisan, everyone was equal and deserved equal treatment.

However, those who are weaker need more help, he added.

"Our commitment is to help everybody so that they will one day be able to enjoy the same standard of living, whether they are from the rural areas or the urban areas," he said.

Taib also promised the longhouses there that he would give them generator sets if they did not have any electricity supply yet.



»Our commitment is to help everybody

TAN SRI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD

However, he said the state government did not have enough funds to give to every settlement immediately and that these development funds need to be channelled in stages.

During his visit, the longhouse elders told Taib that their settlements were badly affected by floods every year.

The roads were in bad shape and needed repair and upgrading urgently, they said, adding that other basic amenities like water and electricity were still lacking.



**Meeting the people:** Taib delivering a speech during his visit to Rumah Daniel in Tanjung Penasu in Sungai Igan yesterday.