

## **Crime rates have taken a steady dip, says Idris Jala**

**New Straits Times**

**July 25, 2012**

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**THE nation's crime rates have been on a steady decline, with about 160 fewer cases reported daily compared with four years ago.**

KUALA LUMPUR: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala said despite recent concerns of an increase in crime, the average number of reported crimes had fallen from 575 per day in 2009 to 419 as of May this year.

"Reports in the newspapers do not tell the whole story. The story today, according to the facts, is clear. The crime rates are coming down," he said at the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) Roadmap 2.0 Open Day yesterday.

Nevertheless, Idris acknowledged that the crime rates could still be improved, announcing a series of initiatives under the reducing crime National Key Results Area to improve police services and public safety perception.

"We have a long way to go, we have to do a lot more to reduce the numbers further."

He said possible future initiatives included MyDistress, a panic button mobile application, and Sistem Semakan Online, which would enable the public to check on the status of their reports online.

"We have received a lot of comments from the public who want to know what the police are doing with individual cases.

"So we are introducing a new system so that they can check the progress of their reports.

"Although this can be a frightening thing for police officers, we are committed in our need to be transparent to the public."

The police force will also target to increase the safety perception index from the current 45 per cent to 65 per cent by 2015.

Other initiatives include "whitening" crime "black spots", expanding the police presence, and putting together teams around the country to deal with house break-ins.

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Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/crime-rates-have-taken-a-steady-dip-says-idris-jala-1.112350>