

PM: Don't take the law into your own hands

● FROM PAGE 1

17/05/04 after MPD
that public anger was at its height.

He said the action of the people reflected the awareness of the responsibility of the public in helping to reduce the incidence of crime.

However, the public, in tackling crime like snatch thefts, should not take the law into their own hands, he said when commenting on the assault on the snatch thief who died in hospital yesterday after falling into a coma following the incident.

"It reflects the reaction and anger of the people against the offence of snatch theft but they should not resort to actions that will eventually cause other problems and make them face the consequences.

"Public awareness in curbing crime is a positive development but it must be pursued within the scope of the law.

"They can hand over snatch theft suspects to the police in accordance with the process of the law in the country," he said.

Last Sunday, CID Director Datuk Musa Hassan said witnesses to incidents of snatch thefts could make a citizen's arrest.

He said they could apprehend the offender or obstruct his vehicle to prevent him from escaping and subsequently hand him over to the police.

During the first four months of the year, a total of 4,511 cases of snatch thefts were reported throughout the country.

Last year, 15,798 cases were reported, compared with 14,640 cases in 2002.