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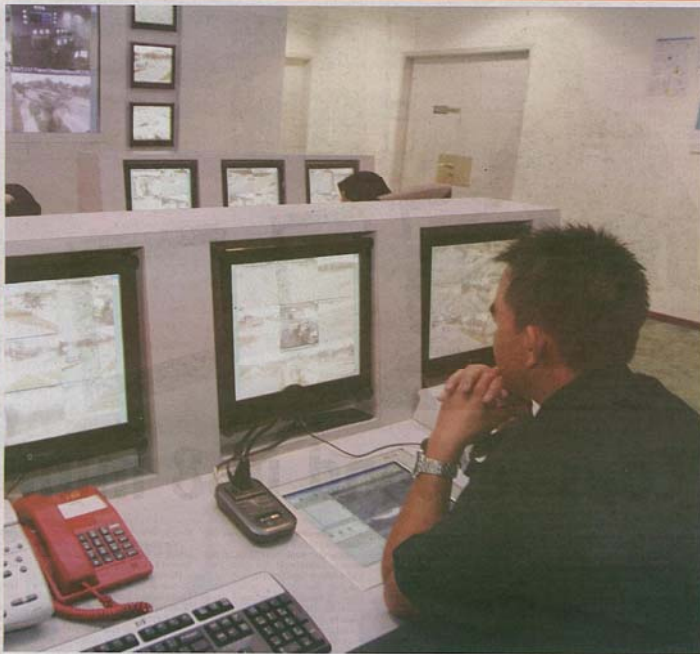
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# Streets

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Picture by Alendi Mohamed

## CYBERJAYA'S CCTV SUCCESS

The township is enjoying lower crime rates, thanks to the cameras

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YourCity...



### 3 crime prevention strategies

INSPIRED by Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia Tan Sri Mohd Shafiq Hassan, the M-Safe initiative is an extension to the government's Safe City Concept.

It requires local authorities and developers to implement 23 measures to prevent crime in their development plans.

These crime prevention measures can be implemented through three strategies:

- Crime prevention measures through planning and design of the physical environment such as environmental design, GIS-based crime mapping and review of housing layout guidelines.

- Target-hardening such as building police posts, installation of CCTVs, cleaning crime-prone areas and taking other physical crime prevention measures.

- Social and community activities, and public awareness and education to build up social integration and communication.

Officers monitor the CCTV footage 24 hours a day at the command centre at Cyberjaya police station. — Pictures by Alendi Mohamed

# 'Cops respond in 8 minutes'

By Dawn Chan streets@nsp.com.my

SEPANG: While many areas in the Klang Valley grapple with rising crime rates, Cyberjaya is enjoying increasing security as the township is more than halfway towards achieving its target of being a safe city with a zero crime rate.

This is largely due to the fully integrated Malaysian Emergency Response System (MERS) 999-CCTV (closed-circuit television) system.

Launched on June 1 last year, Cyberjaya's CCTV system is the only system in the country that has been linked to the RM10 million MERS 999.

The integration of these two systems is an initiative under the Federal Government's M-SAFE project, which was inspired by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Shafiq Hassan.

Thanks to the watchful eyes of police personnel at the CCTV command centre on the second floor of the Cyberjaya police station, the crime index has fallen.

However, Sepang police chief Superintendent Zuhdi Ayob is not about to rest on his laurels just yet. "I will be happy when we have achieved the goal of making Cyber-



Sepang police chief Superintendent Zuhdi Ayob says most of the cases reported in Cyberjaya were petty crimes in student hostels.

in an interview with Streets at the command centre yesterday.

Since the implementation of the system, Zuhdi said, the crime rate had declined significantly.

In the first three months of this year, 21 cases were recorded. They were mostly petty crimes taking place in student hostels.

Last year, petty crime was the main contributor in the crime index, with 61 reported cases.

The CCTV system, part of the Cyberjaya Citywide Surveillance System, boasts 30 cameras in parts of Cyberjaya with a high traffic volume and large population, such as in Persiaran Multimedia, Persiaran APEC, Jalan Tokokrak and Persiaran Semarak Api, near schools and in public parks.

At the command centre, 12 police personnel, who are divided into four shifts, monitor the CCTV footage on a video wall round the clock.

The policemen are able to view incidents happening in real time and immediately send for assistance, without having to wait for emergency or distress calls made to MERS 999.

When calls do come in, they are answered within four rings or not more than 10 seconds.

The officers who man MERS 999-CCTV have set a high benchmark for

themselves. "We respond within eight minutes, which is half the national response time of 15 minutes," Zuhdi said.

He said they received an average of 15 calls a day from the public and the cases ranged from break-ins to public disturbances.

To further enhance security in Cyberjaya, Zuhdi said, the authorities were looking into boosting the number of policemen from 42 to 52 so that they could be stationed at strategic areas and more patrols could be carried out.

He said the CCTV system was an open system and was compatible with any plug-ins to allow linkups with companies.

Zuhdi encouraged owners of buildings and premises such as banks to install two CCTVs at their entrances so that the police could monitor the situation.

"This will give the public a sense of confidence, safety and security. Any incident can be easily solved with real-time evidence from the CCTV recordings, which are kept for a month."

It also enables the relevant authorities, be it the Fire and Rescue Department, police or others to respond quickly, he said.

Cyberjaya Sdn Bhd managing director Hafiz Hashim said the cost of the system included the installation, maintenance and system upgrade for the next nine years.

He said they were looking into doubling the number of CCTVs by seeking funds from the 10th Malaysia Plan.

Another way to increase the number of CCTVs, he added, was through negotiations with housing developers to incorporate the system within their projects.

The idea, said Hafiz, had been proposed to housing developers and the response had been positive.

"The CCTVs are designed to be able to operate round the clock in all types of weather conditions and capture quality daytime and night-time images, utilising Cyberjaya's fibre-optic backbone system."

Six parties were involved in the planning and design of the MERS 999-CCTV system in Cyberjaya: Cyberjaya, the Royal Malaysian Police, Sepang Municipal Council, Tenaga Nasional Berhad and Multimedia Development Corporation, he added.

The pan, tilt, zoom (PTZ) cameras are able to rotate 180 degrees and 360 degrees with 32 times optical zoom, up to a distance of 200 metres.