



## THE OBJECTIVES

- TO achieve greater unity among Malaysians
- TO maintain a democratic way of life
- TO create a just society in which the wealth of the nation shall be equitably shared
- TO ensure a liberal approach to her rich and diverse cultural traditions
- TO build a progressive society which shall be oriented to modern science and technology

## M-cycle deaths down 20%

by **Charles Ramendran**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Ops Sikap 21, carried out for two weeks during the Chinese New Year holidays, saw a 20% drop in the number of deaths among motorcyclists and pillion riders.

Federal traffic police chief SAC II Datuk Abdul Aziz Yusof said 152 motorcyclists and pillion riders were killed during a similar operation during Chinese New Year last year but the number of fatalities dropped to 121 this year.

It was the biggest decline in the number of deaths in the category in five years.

The total number of road-users killed – 201 – was also an 11% decline from the total a year ago, and the number of road accidents – 14,183 – was down 3% from 14,618, although the number of registered motor vehicles had gone up by almost 1.3 million.

However, the death toll among motorcyclists and pillion riders still made up about 60% of the total fatalities.

Abdul Aziz said the decline in statistics could be attributed to better attitude and behaviour among the road-users.

He said the presence of traffic police at accident-prone spots nationwide also helped to reduce the number of accidents.

Another factor was that the people were travelling to their hometowns in phases rather than getting into a mad rush.

"This helped to ease the traffic flow and there were no massive traffic jams reported," he said.

"We would like to commend the positive change in attitude and hope this will be adopted by everyone.

"The police will not see improvements in these statistics if we do not have the cooperation of the road-users."

Abdul Aziz also expressed relief that there were no cases of express buses being involved in any mishap.

About 40% of the total accidents occurred in Selangor, Johor and Penang.

Police issued 160,142 summonses, mostly for speeding, compared to 142,362 last year.

# Cash gone after moment's distraction

### COPS WARN OF SCAM THAT COULD LEAD TO BANK ACCOUNT WIPED CLEAN

by **Tim Leonard**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** A moment's distraction – that's all it takes for one to fall victim to a scam that could lead to one's bank account being wiped almost clean.

Police warned yesterday of a scam whereby thieves have siphoned off thousands of ringgit after they cunningly steal ATM cards and PIN from unsuspecting bank customers.

Unlike a hit carried out by organised crime syndicates using ATM card skimmers and sophisticated gadgets, the latest cases, recorded by police nationwide, involve a simple method.

A Bukit Aman police officer told *theSun* the thieves would usually work in groups of two to three, including a woman.

"Their targets are those making cash withdrawals at the ATMs," the officer said.

"One of them would scatter a few RM1 or RM10 notes on the floor near their intended victim while he or she is in the midst of a banking transaction.

"One of them, usually the woman, would call out or tap the victim on the shoulder to say he or she had dropped the money.

"And just as the confused victim is distracted and turns around or

bends down to pick up the money, an accomplice would quickly swap the victim's ATM card with a similar-looking card, probably that of a recent victim.

"One of them would have spied on the victim's PIN as it was being punched earlier at the start of the transaction.

"The unsuspecting victim would collect the cash dispensed from the ATM and walk away with someone else's ATM card while their own card is in the crooks' possession."

In an incident on Feb 12, a 47-year-old newspaperman lost all his savings in three accounts at a bank. The incident occurred at about

4pm on Jalan Masjid Negeri in Penang, when C.H. Ng was withdrawing money using his ATM card.

Just as the machine was dispensing the cash, a woman tapped him on the shoulder and told him some money had fallen out from his pocket.

"I looked down and saw two RM10 notes and several RM1 notes on the floor near my feet," Ng said.

He picked up the notes, thanked the woman, and turned to the ATM.

"To my relief, the money dispensed by the ATM was untouched. I had heard of cases where people lost their money after being momentarily distracted," he said.

Ng said he retrieved the ATM card and left the bank with his money.

However, when he used the card again to withdraw money near his office in Petaling Jaya last Friday, he was shocked to find that the card was not his but that belonging to a woman.

He checked his accounts online and found that money from his three accounts had been wiped out and had balances of only RM2, RM5 and RM30.

Ng lodged a police report at the SEA Park police station in Petaling Jaya.

Police said one of the earliest reported cases involving the same method was in June last year when a credit card agent lost RM5,000 in Seri Gombak.

The victim told police he saw three people, including a woman, in the bank when he went to withdraw money at night.

Just as the machine was dispensing cash, the woman called out to him in a foreign language and pointed to some bank notes on the floor.

The victim initially did not pick up the money but the woman kept gesturing to him to pick up the notes and even indicated that she had back pain.

Just as the victim picked the cash up, the woman and a man standing behind him left the bank in a hurry.

The victim put the money back on the floor and turned to continue his bank transaction but it failed.

He ejected the card and re-inserted it into the slot and, to his surprise, the name on the screen was not his.

By the time he called the bank to freeze his account, the thieves had withdrawn his money from another location.

Police urged those approached in a similar fashion to stop their transaction immediately and contact the police or bank security.

## Groups shocked over tiger video on British TV

by **Natalie Heng**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** Video footages of alleged tiger poachers in action underline the gravity of the challenges facing tiger conservation efforts in Malaysia.

Rarely seen and rarely caught, an anonymous mobile video clip aired exclusively by Channel 4 News in the United Kingdom last weekend showed men, alleged to be poachers, squatting next to a tiger carcass.

The video, said to have been taken in "northern Malaysia" by what Channel 4 News called a reliable source, has come as a shock to tiger conservationists, *theSun* learned yesterday.

The publicity stands in contrast with wide-ranging efforts to step up tiger conservation, including a pledge by 13 nations last month to double wild tiger numbers by 2022.

The Malaysian efforts include the National Tiger Action Plan (TAP), a roadmap detailing the direction and specific actions required to secure a future for wild tigers, with the specified aim of increasing the local wild tiger population from 500 to 1,000 by 2020.

Organised by the Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan) and supported by the collaborative platform of Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (Mycat), the TAP is unique in that it aims to coordinate efforts among the government, the public and non-governmental organisations.

Chris Shepherd, acting director in Southeast Asia for TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, said



the poaching of wild tigers and their prey remained the most important threat to tiger conservation.

"Malaysia, actually, is one of the few countries with a relatively large, though much reduced, population of

endemic tiger species," he said.

Shepherd said stronger penalties were important as there was still an incentive to poach since gains often exceeded applicable fines and jail terms.

## Parents file suit over computer classes

by **Hemananthani Sivanandam**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** A group of parents has filed a suit against Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong, a headmistress, school board chairman and chairman of the parents-teachers association (PTA) for failing to remove computer lessons from the formal timetable.

The suit was filed on behalf of the group of 18 by Lim Kian Teck, the father of two pupils at SK (C) Desa Jaya in Kepong, against Wee, headmistress Chow Siew Fon, chairman of the school's

board of directors Datuk Tan Kim Hor, and PTA chairman Chu Han Wah.

In his affidavit in support of the suit, filed at the Kuala Lumpur High Court (Special Powers Division) on Thursday, Lim said computer classes were included in the school formal timetable and taught during the time allocated for teaching core subjects.

He said a fee of RM122 a year was imposed on the pupils for the weekly hour-long computer lesson and that the teachers were seen "overzealously coaxing the pupils to pay the charges in the guise of voluntary contributions or voluntary donations".

The group claims that the classes, introduced by the school's PTA, should be free of charge.

Lim said that under the provisions of the Education Act 1996 and the Education (National Curriculum) Regulations 1997, only core subjects stated in Schedule 1 of the Education Regulations can be included into the timetables of government-aided schools.

He said that according to the provisions, all subjects in the approved timetables of these schools are to be exempted from levy of any fee.

"Computer class is not a subject in the approved timetables and is not

within the ambit of the Education Act or the Education Regulations," the affidavit said.

"Therefore, computer classes cannot be included into the timetables of government-aided schools nor to be taught during such time."

The affidavit also said that according to the education director-general's December 2000 Circular on Computer Clubs, with regards to guidelines on encouraging cooperation with or contributions from outsiders to schools, students should not be imposed any charges.

"Before accepting any contribu-

tions or apparatus from outsiders, the schools concerned must make sure that the contributions are outright gift and no payment of any sort would be levied on the pupils or teachers at a latter time," it said.

"And there shall be no charges for giving courses to the teachers and pupils."

It was reported that the group had been at odds with the school authority over the matter since 2008 and had complained to the Selangor Education Department, Gombak District Education Department and the Education Ministry.