



## NEWS RELEASE (Updated on 7 Oct 2014)

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### ANNUAL CRIME BRIEF 2013

### CRIME RATE FALLS TO A 30-YEAR LOW

#### INTRODUCTION

Overall Crime reported in 2013 fell by 3.3% as compared to 2012. Significant dips were seen in four of the six crime classes<sup>1</sup>, namely Crimes Against Persons, Housebreaking and Related Crimes, Theft and Related Crimes and Miscellaneous Crimes.

#### OVERALL CRIME DOWN

2. The Overall Crime in 2013 fell by 3.3% (down by 1,031 cases) to 29,984 cases from 31,015 cases in 2012.
3. The Overall Crime rate<sup>2</sup> for 2013 also fell from 584 cases per 100,000 population in 2012 to 555 cases per 100,000 population in 2013. This is the lowest crime rate registered for the past 30 years.
4. Please refer to **Annex A** for the breakdown of Overall Crime by crime classes and crime rate. **Table 1** shows the breakdown of Overall Crime in 2013

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<sup>1</sup> Crime classes refer to the six classes of Crimes Against Persons, Violent/Serious Property Crimes, Housebreaking and Related Crimes, Theft and Related Crimes, Commercial Crimes and Miscellaneous Crimes.

<sup>2</sup> Crime Rate refers to Overall Crime per 100,000 total population. It is computed by dividing the number of cases reported over the total population and multiplied by 100,000.

as compared to 2012. **Table 2** shows the Overall Crime Rate for the past 30 years.

## **DETAILS**

### **Housebreaking and Related Crimes registered a 20-year low**

5. Housebreaking and Related Crimes registered a 20-year low, dropping by 55 cases (-9.2%) from 598 cases in 2012 to 543 cases in 2013. In particular, Housebreaking also registered a 20-year low, falling by 38 cases (-7%) from 545 cases in 2012 to 507 cases in 2013.

### **Motor Vehicle Theft and Snatch Theft both registered 20-year lows**

6. Theft and Related Crimes fell by 1,401 cases (-7.6%) from 18,476 cases in 2012 to 17,075 cases in 2013. In particular, Motor Vehicle Theft and Snatch Theft both registered 20 year lows. Motor Vehicle Theft fell by 182 cases (-31.1%) from 586 cases in 2012 to 404 cases in 2013. Snatch Theft fell by 47 cases (-16.4%) from 286 cases in 2012 to 239 cases in 2013.

### **Miscellaneous Crimes also registered a drop**

7. Miscellaneous Crimes<sup>3</sup> fell by 42 cases (-1.0%) from 4,221 cases in 2012 to 4,179 cases in 2013.

### **Crimes Against Persons also decreased**

8. Crimes Against Persons<sup>4</sup> dropped by 2 cases (-0.1%) from 3,824 cases in 2012 to 3,822 cases in 2013.

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<sup>3</sup> Comprises various offences such as vandalism, trespassing and disorderly behavior

<sup>4</sup> Refers to crimes where the victim suffers bodily harm as a result of the crime

**Violent/Serious Property Crimes<sup>5</sup> Increased but Robbery continued to decrease registering a 20-year low**

9. Robbery registered a 20 year low, decreasing by 36 cases (-12.4%) from 290 cases in 2012 to 254 cases in 2013 although Violent/Serious Property Crimes<sup>6</sup> registered an increase of 29 cases (+7.5%) from 389 cases in 2012 to 418 cases in 2013. The increase in this crime class is mainly attributed to the surge in cyber extortion cases, where there was an overall increase of 44 cases (+68.8%), from 64 cases in 2012 to 108 cases in 2013.

**Commercial Crimes increased**

10. Commercial Crimes<sup>7</sup> increased by 440 cases (+12.5%) from 3,507 cases in 2012 to 3,947 cases in 2013. In particular, Cheating & Related Offences increased by 287 cases (+9.0%) from 3,180 cases in 2012 to 3,467 cases in 2013.

11. Director of Public Affairs, Assistant Commissioner of Police Ng Guat Ting, said, **“Singapore recorded the lowest crime rate in 30 years. The support from the public in our crime fighting efforts, along with increased awareness and education of crime, has allowed us to reach this milestone achievement. With the community’s continued support, we will strive to do better and will devote more energy and focus to make this happen.”**

**IMPROVEMENT IN CRIMES OF CONCERN**

**Significant Improvements in Unlicensed Moneylending (UML) Situation**

12. The Police’s multi-faceted efforts of enforcement, community involvement, public education and stricter laws, to curb Unlicensed Moneylending (UML)

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<sup>5</sup> Crime classification has been renamed to ‘Violent/Serious Property Crimes’ to reflect the changing nature of the crime and the growing trend of cyber-extortions. Violent/Serious Property Crimes refer to crimes which involve the taking of money or property by force or means of threat against the victims. These include crimes where physical violence may not necessarily be involved e.g. cyber-extortion cases. The basket of offences under this crime classification remains the same.

<sup>6</sup> Refer to crimes which involve taking of money or property by force, or threat of force against the victims.

<sup>7</sup> Comprises mainly of cheating and related offences

activities, have resulted in a continued downward trend in harassment cases. The number of harassment cases fell by 1,937 cases (-21.5%), from 8,989 cases in 2012 to 7,052 cases in 2013.

13. The Police have also kept up enforcement efforts, with the number of persons arrested for UML and harassment activities, increasing by 38 persons (+2%), from 1,915 persons in 2012 to 1,953 persons in 2013.

14. Besides continuous enforcement efforts and partnership with the community, the Police have also explored various forms of communications platforms to reach out to potential offenders. Some of these include Anti-UML (AUML) Public Education videos are screened during school talks, AUML road shows and other community events.

15. Deputy Director of the Criminal Investigation Department, Assistant Commissioner of Police Florence Chua, said, **“Harassment figures are on a steady decline for the fourth consecutive year since 2010. This can be attributed to the hard work and relentless effort put in by the Police, the strong community support, and those who had provided valuable information to the Police. We are encouraged by this downward trend, and will continue to press on, sparing no effort to clamp down further on loansharking activities. The Police will continue to work closely with our partners and all relevant stakeholders to tackle the loansharking problem in a more holistic approach, and work towards weeding out these illegal activities in Singapore.”**

#### **Less Youths Were Involved in Crime with Fewer Arrested**

16. The youth crime situation has seen an improvement with the number of youths arrested falling by 328 persons (-9.8%), from 3,359 arrests made in 2012 to 3,031 arrests made in 2013.

### **Outrage of Modesty Cases Declined**

17. The number of cases reported for Outrage of Modesty has fallen by 95 cases (-6.7%), from 1,420 cases in 2012 to 1,325 cases in 2013. Cases reported onboard buses have decreased slightly by 3 cases (-3.2%), from 94 cases in 2012 to 91 cases in 2013. Cases reported onboard trains have increased slightly by 5 cases (+8.3%), from 60 cases in 2012 to 65 cases in 2013. Overall, arrests onboard buses and trains have increased by 10 persons (+14%), from 70 persons in 2012 to 80 persons in 2013.

18. The Police urge the public to take the necessary preventive measures to avoid falling victim to Outrage of Modesty. As part of the Police's ongoing efforts, the Public Transport Security Command (Transcom) conducts regular patrols at the train networks and bus interchanges, and the Police have put out more public education messages where appropriate. The Police also encourage victims not to remain silent and to expose culprits at the earliest opportunity possible, to ensure that the culprit is caught and to save others from being victimized.

### **Kidnap and Lucky Draw scams register improvement**

19. Kidnap and Lottery scams also registered a significant improvement. Lucky draw scams with money cheated saw a drop of 53 cases (-29.3%), from 181 cases in 2012 to 128 cases in 2013. The total amount of money cheated also decreased from S\$7.4m in 2012 to S\$3.4m in 2013.

20. Kidnap scams with money cheated saw a drop of 10 cases (-43.5%), from 23 cases in 2012 to 13 cases in 2013. The total amount of money cheated also decreased from about S\$131,900 in 2012 to S\$81,400 in 2013.

21. Though the total amount of money cheated may have dropped, the value remains high. The public is reminded to continue to be vigilant. If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

## KEY CRIME CONCERNS OF 2013

### **Scams Migrate to Cyberspace**

22. While kidnap and lucky draws scams have decreased, Cheating and Related Offences increased, with Cheating involving E-commerce mainly contributing to this increase.

23. Overall, Cheating involving E-commerce saw a surge of 272 cases (+114%) from 238 cases in 2012 to 510 cases in 2013. Of these cases involving E-commerce, the number of cases involving Multiple Payment Online Purchase Scam registered a significant increase of 255 cases (+1,821%), from 14 cases in 2012 to 269 cases in 2013. The scam involves culprits posing as sellers of smart phones/tablets, who would then cheat victims by failing to deliver the goods purchased and yet ask for further payments on the pretext of mixed delivery orders. Victims typically accede to the request for further payment but end up not receiving the item.

24. Apart from Cheating involving E-commerce, the Internet Love Scam also registered an increase in 2013 from 50 cases (+62%) in 2012 to 81 cases in 2013. Notably, the amount cheated was significantly higher, rising from S\$1.18m in 2012 to S\$5.8m in 2013. The Internet Love Scam involves suspects who mostly claim to be from Britain and target women searching for love online through dating or social networks. Correspondences are made through emails or phone calls. In such cases, the suspect would claim that he would be coming to Singapore to ask for the victim's hand in marriage. On the supposed day of arrival, the suspect would then call the victim and claim that he had been detained by Customs for carrying excess cash. The victim would then be asked to transfer money to secure his release. In another variation, the suspect would claim to be sending a parcel containing valuable items such as branded bags and watches. The suspect would then ask the victim to transfer money to clear penalty charges imposed on the items.

### **Efforts in Raising Awareness of Internet Scams**

25. There is a discernible trend that crime is moving to the online sphere. To reach out to the vulnerable and Internet-savvy audience, digital advertorials, articles and videos were posted on the various online networks such as websites of interest, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter (refer to **Annex B** for details). The Police will continue to raise awareness and educate the community on such scams and fraud using the various forms of media and online platforms. The Police urge Internet users to exercise heightened vigilance to avoid falling victim to such preventable crimes. To keep updated with the latest crime and modus operandi, members of the public are encouraged to follow our Police Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/SingaporePoliceForce](http://www.facebook.com/SingaporePoliceForce) and Twitter Page at [www.twitter.com/SingaporePolice](http://www.twitter.com/SingaporePolice).

### **More Youths arrested for Rioting**

26. While the number of youths arrested decreased overall, the number of youths arrested for rioting saw an increase of 44 persons (+18.4%), from 239 persons in 2012 to 283 persons in 2013. The Police will continue to partner the relevant agencies and stakeholders to tackle youth crime. Such agencies include educational institutions, law enforcement agencies and the social services sector (refer to **Annex C** for details).

27. Director of Operations, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Lau Peet Meng, said, **“Although youth crime has been decreasing for the past few years, we are concerned whenever a youth is involved in crime. We have been engaging youths through our Youth Engagement Programmes such as the Delta League to keep them meaningfully occupied during their free time. We have also worked closely with our partners in MOE and MSF for a holistic approach to deal with youth crime. We need parents to also know their children’s activities, monitor them and provide proper guidance to their children to stay away from crime. All of us have a role to play to keep the next generation of Singaporeans away from the clutches of crime.”**

## **POLICE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE LOWER CRIME**

28. Singapore recorded the lowest crime rate in 30 years. This positive result was achieved through strong community involvement in crime fighting and the strong determination of the Singapore Police Force to prevent, deter and detect crime to make Singapore the safest country in the world. This strong collaboration with the community will continue.

**SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
14 FEBRUARY 2014  
(Updated on 7 Oct 2014)**



## Annex A

### Breakdown of Overall Crime by Crime Classes and Crime Rate

**Table 1**

<b>CASES REPORTED BY CRIME CLASSES</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>% change</b>
Housebreaking and Related Crimes	598	543	-55	-9.2
Theft and Related Crimes	18,476	17,075	-1,401	-7.6
Miscellaneous Crimes	4,221	4,179	-42	-1.0
Crimes Against Persons	3,824	3,822	-2	-0.1
Violent/Serious Property Crimes <sup>8</sup>	389	418	29	7.5
Commercial Crimes	3,507	3,947	440	12.5
<b>OVERALL CRIME</b>	<b>31,015</b>	<b>29,984</b>	<b>-1,031</b>	<b>-3.3</b>

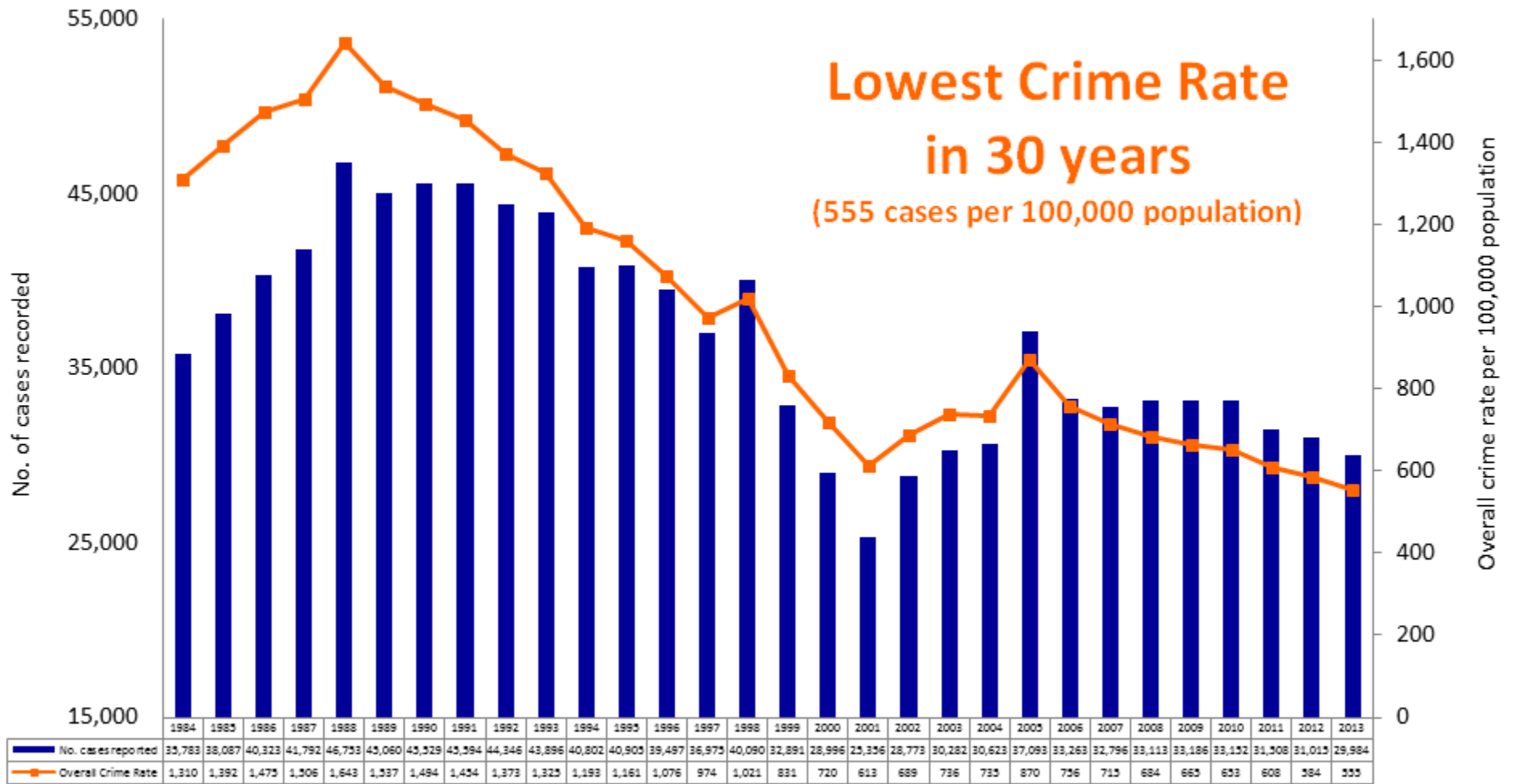
Please refer to the next page for **Table 2** on Crime Rate.

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<sup>8</sup> Crime classification has been renamed to 'Violent/Serious Property Crimes' to reflect the changing nature of the crime and the growing trend of cyber-extortions. Violent/Serious Property Crimes refer to crimes which involve the taking of money or property by force or means of threat against the victims. These include crimes where physical violence may not necessarily be involved e.g. cyber-extortion cases. The basket of offences under this crime classification remains the same.

**Table 2**

1984 - 2013



Year 2013 figures are from annual publication.

## Annex B

### Initiatives Targeted at Scams

Scammers are coming up with new and innovative modus operandi to convince victims to part with their money. Such scams can come in many variants, coined by scammers over platforms such as the telephone or online websites to trick unwary victims into sending monies to designated local bank accounts or overseas accounts. In most of the scams, prior to committing their act, the scammers will try to convince victims into believing they are someone whom victim know or should trust. The scammers will often play with the victim's emotions or put up offers consisting of monetary gains that are too enticing to be refused thus leading to the victims believing in the scammers and adhering to the scammers' request.

2. In creating awareness and educating the community, on the modus operandi relating to the scams and its preventive measures, the Police have been utilizing various platforms including the traditional print and broadcast media and the social media. In view of the prevalence of scam cases, police and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) have developed educational posters to remind members of public on the precautionary measures to avoid falling victims. In addition, the Police have also engaged partners such as remittance agencies to assist in outreach efforts including seeking the assistance of its staff to be vigilant and on the look-out for potential victims.





**Image:** Anti-Scam posters being placed at remittance counters

3. Members of public can avoid being the next victim by adopting the following crime prevention measures:

- Always be wary if contacted by strangers through any means such as telephone, emails or face to face confrontations;
- Always check on the credibility of information or messages that you are receiving. For instance you can check with friends or family members;
- Do not transfer any money via remittance agencies, banks or any other means to anyone whom you do not know;
- Remember that offers that are too good to be true are probably not; and
- Call the Police immediately at '999' to report the case.



**Image:** Examples of Scam Posters

## **Annex C**

### **Initiatives Targeted At Youth Crime**

Youth crime is a multi-faceted problem that requires a multi-agency, multi-stakeholder approach for lasting results. Educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, the social services sector, parents and youths themselves must all play a role in reducing youth crime. As such, developing preventive and rehabilitative programmes on guiding youths to the right path constitutes a more holistic approach towards managing the complexities of youth crime, than a purely enforcement-and-prosecution approach.

2. The Police conducts regular assembly talks and crime prevention exhibitions in schools as part of the Police's outreach to students. These school talks and exhibitions are implemented to educate youths against criminal ways, aimed to remind youths that crime is a matter of choice. Through its messages and activities, the Police educate youths on means to avoid committing crime or becoming victims of crime. In addition, avenues to seek help or counselling are also provided.

3. The Police's Land Divisions engage secondary schools under its jurisdiction to participate in Police's Youth Engagement Programme (YEP). For such programme, the Police work with the schools to formulate the activities which will meaningfully occupy the time of the at risk student youths and steer them away from crime. The Police also collaborated with CNB to incorporate anti-drug messages in YEP activities. About 1,115 students from 85 secondary schools participated in the last two runs of Police's YEP which started in 2010.

4. For instance, participants from Tanglin Police Division's Project Guiding Light were engaged in weekly dragonboat training and soccer clinic to promote a new hobby and build resilience. Bedok Police Division's 'Youth Mentoring

Scheme (YMS) 2.0' on the other hand involved officers from the Home Team Eastern Sector performing the role of mentors to the participants. Police also conduct house visits with the school counsellors for participants of Central Police Division's Project OASIS who have not been attending school regularly in order to seek parents' support to monitor their children.

5. During the recent December school holidays, in collaboration with NCPC, Clementi Police Division successfully organised the 6<sup>th</sup> season of Delta League. Delta League is a biannual island-wide YEP aimed at keeping at-risk youths meaningfully occupied during the school holidays by using football as the key platform of engagement, but at the same time incorporating a series of self-improvement and crime awareness activities. Each season targets a different crime concern. The crime focus for the latest season was "Festive Season Crime". For the latest edition, there was also collaboration with Football Association of Singapore for mentoring programmes for all participants.