Community Policing and Crime Prevention
in Kuching, Sarawak

Lau Pang Heng

Doctor of Philosophy
2019
Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Kuching, Sarawak

Lau Pang Heng

A thesis submitted
In fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
(Sociology)

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK
2019
DECLARATION

I, Lau Pang Heng with UNIMAS matric number 17010023, from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities hereby declare that the work titled *Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Kuching, Sarawak*, is my original work. I have not copied from any other student’s work or from any other sources except where due reference or acknowledgement is made explicitly in the text, nor has any part been written for me by another person. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted to candidature for any other degree elsewhere.

Lau Pang Heng
Date: October 4th, 2019.
DEDICATION

In the name of the Lord, I humbly and sincerely dedicate my PhD thesis titled “Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Kuching, Sarawak,” to my family for their patience, prayers and understanding throughout my period of study at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

I humbly pray that the fruits of this study shall benefit community policing not only in Malaysia but worldwide. And that God can allow us to live long enough to witness the fruition of successful community policing in our country, Malaysia.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks God for giving me good health and family support throughout my study at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

I am indebted to my supervisor Dr Kamsiah Bt. Ali, at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. I am grateful for her advices, comments, suggestions and constructive feedbacks during the period of my PhD research under her supervision. She is a very resourceful person, her academic and intellectual contributions towards the success of this study which without per patience and understanding, I could not see the light of the day. I also like to thank and appreciate my co-supervisor Associate Professor Dr Ahmad Nizar bin Yaakub for his tireless guidance and intellectual contributions in my study.

I like to acknowledge the good working relationship and fatherly advices given by the Dean, Associate Professor Dr Neilsen Ilan Mersat and deputy dean of Postgraduate and Research, Dr Arnold Puyok. Sincere appreciation to Dr Ling Kwok Sung for proof-read my thesis.

A very special appreciation to Professor Dr Fasihuddin Baharuddin Ahmad, Dean of Center of Post Graduate Studies for his guidance and patience.

Special thanks to members of my family for their patience and support throughout my study. Not forgetting my team of field researchers and my office team members for helping me to conduct the field surveys as trained research assistants.

Sincere appreciations to all the respondents who have co-operated during the survey and friends who have helped me in this study. With sincere appreciations and a grateful heart.
The study focused on community policing and crime prevention practices in Kuching urban areas under the administration of Kuching police district. The research was based on mixed method – qualitative and quantitative data collection. The objective of the qualitative data was to find out the perception of the respondents on community policing and crime prevention practices through four focus group discussions and 20 in-depth interviews with respondents who were involved in decision making of community policing and crime prevention. The respondents were police, community leaders and crime prevention groups. To gain the public perceptions and attitudes towards community policing activities and its effectiveness, a quantitative survey of 500 respondents from the respective nine police station areas in Kuching were randomly collected. Five hypotheses were tested: (i) Citizen and police community policing collaboration in crime prevention patrol has a strong correlation with the level of crime in the area; (ii.a) there is a strong relationship between police and citizen joint patrol with the level of crime and safety in the neighbourhood; (ii.b) when police and citizen has joint community policing programmes, citizen perception of fear of crime is low; (iii) if police and citizen frequent patrol, the safety status of the neighbourhood will improve; (iv) sharing of crime information by the citizen would have a positive impact in crime reduction. The results showed that community policing and crime has a statistical significance by involving police and members of the community, particularly members from the Sarawak Community Policing Groups. The five hypothesis tested contributed to new knowledge in the community policing and crime prevention practices in Malaysia. This study has found that community policing involving police and members of the public has played an important role in crime reduction in Kuching over the past years. Citizen perception on fear of crime in
Kuching is low due to citizen and police collaboration in crime prevention. Policy recommendations were made at the conclusion of this thesis.

**Keywords:** Community policing, crime prevention, broken windows theory, and citizen patrol
Kepolisan Komuniti dan Pencegahan Jenayah di Kuching, Sarawak

ABSTRAK

Penyelidikan ini adalah mengenai kepolisan komuniti dan aktiviti pencegahan jenayah di kawasan bandar Kuching di bawah pentadbiran Ibu Pejabat Daerah Polis Kuching. Penyelidikan ini menggunakan kaedah campuran yang menggabungkan kaedah pengumpulan data secara kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Objektif data kuantitatif adalah untuk mendapatkan persepsi responden terhadap kepolisan komuniti dan aktiviti pencegahan jenayah berdasarkan perbincangan empat kumpulan fokus, 20 temuduga mendalam bersama responden yang terlibat dalam pembuatan dasar kepolisan komuniti dan pencegahan jenayah. Responden merupakan ahli polis, ketua masyarakat dan kumpulan pencegahan jenayah di kawasan kejiranan. Sementara untuk mendapatkan persepsi dan atitud orang awam terhadap aktiviti-aktiviti kepolisan komuniti dan keberkesanannya, survei kuantitatif bersama 500 responden yang tinggal di kawasan pentadbiran sembilan balai polis di Kuching telah dikutip secara rawak. Lima hipotesis telah diuji: (i) kerjasama orang awam bersama polis dalam kepolisan komuniti dalam menjalankan rondaan pencegahan jenayah mempunyai korelasi yang tinggi dengan tahap kadar jenayah di kawasan tersebut; (ii.a) terdapat hubungan yang kuat di antara rondaan bersama polis dan orang awam dengan kadar jenayah dan keselamatan di kawasan tersebut; (ii.b) apabila polis dan orang awam menjalankan program kepolisan komuniti bersama, persepsi orang awam mengenai rasa takut terhadap jenayah adalah rendah; (iii) jika pihak polis dan orang awam meningkatkan kekerapan meronda kawasan kejiranan, status keselamatan kejiranan meningkat dan; (iv) perkongsian maklumat jenayah oleh orang awam mempunyai impak positif terhadap pengurangan kadar jenayah. Hasil penyelidikan ini menunjukkan kepolisan komuniti dan jenayah mempunyai kepentingan statistik apabila melibatkan polis dan ahli komuniti, terutamanya ahli-ahli kumpulan
**Kepolisian Komuniti Sarawak.** Lima hipotesis yang diuji mengumbar pengetahuan baharu dalam kopolisan komuniti dan pencegahan jenayah di Malaysia. Penyelidikan ini mendapati kopolisan komuniti yang melibatkan pihak polis dan orang awam telah memainkan peranan penting dalam pengurangan jenayah di Kuching. Persepsi orang awam terhadap rasa takut terhadap jenayah juga rendah disebabkan kolaborasi pihak polis dan orang awam dalam pencegahan jenayah. Cadangan dasar telah dibuat pada kesimpulan tesis ini.

**Kata kunci:** Kepolisian komuniti, pencegahan jenayah, broken window theory, rondaan sukarela
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</td>
<td>xviii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction ........................................... 1  
1.2 Kuching Police District  ................................ 5  
1.3 Community Policing in Kuching .......................... 5  
1.4 The Research Problems  .................................. 7  
1.5 The Research Questions  .................................. 8  
1.6 The Research Objectives  ................................ 10  
1.7 Significance of Study ..................................... 10  
1.8 Contributions to New Knowledge .......................... 11  
1.9 Thesis organization ...................................... 12  
1.10 Chapter summary  ........................................ 14

## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW ................................. 15

2.1 Introduction ............................................. 15
2.11 Factors motivating citizen participation in crime prevention

2.11.1 Factoring motivating citizens participating in crime prevention

2.11.2 Community context

2.11.3 Police and citizen partnerships

2.11.4 Demographic factors that associated with citizen participation with police in crime prevention

2.11.5 Type of citizen response to crime

2.12 Trojanowicz and Buequeroux’s theory

2.12.1 Relevance of Trojanowicz and Buequeroux’s theory to this study

2.13 Modern management technology theory of community policing

2.13.1 Relevance of the modern technology theory of community policing in this study

2.14 Community policing in other countries

2.15 Community policing in Malaysia

2.15.1 “Salleh” system

2.15.2 Ikatan relawan rakyat Malaysia (RELA)

2.15.3 Kawasan rukun tetangga (KRT)

2.15.4 Skim rondaan sukarela (SRS)

2.15.5 Rakan cop

2.12.6 Community policing

2.16 Malaysia crime rates

2.17 Chapter summary

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 Research questions and objectives ........................................ 79
3.2 Research methodology ...................................................... 80
3.3 Qualitative research .......................................................... 81
    3.3.1 Focus group discussions ............................................. 81
    3.3.2 In-depth interviews .................................................. 82
3.4 Quantitative research ........................................................ 84
    3.4.1 Structured questionnaire field survey .............................. 84
    3.4.2 Field survey questions .............................................. 86
3.5 Secondary data from the police .......................................... 86
3.6 Validity and reliability of instrument used in the surveys .......... 87
3.7 Analysis of data .............................................................. 89
    3.7.1 Chi square, test of independence and homogeneity ............ 91
    3.7.2 How does the chi square statistic work ? ....................... 93
    3.7.3 How is the chi square statistics measured in SPSS and how is the output interpreted ? ................................................ 94
3.8 ANOVA ............................................................................. 95
    3.8.1 Hypothesis .............................................................. 96
3.9 Somers’ Delta ................................................................... 97
3.10 Variables used in this study ............................................... 98
3.11 Testing statistical significance ............................................ 99
3.12 Chapter summary ............................................................ 99

CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA ......................... 101
4.1 Introduction ....................................................................... 101
4.2 Description of the sample ................................................... 101
4.3 A role of community policing in crime prevention in Kuching .................. 104
4.4 The activities of SCPA in crime prevention ................................. 112
   4.4.1 Statistical significance on the findings of the citizen perception on fear
       of crime .................................................................................. 113
   4.4.2 The quantitative data complimented the qualitative data ............. 116
4.5 Level of citizen participation in crime prevention ......................... 118
   4.5.1 Result of focus group discussion ........................................ 119
   4.5.2 Result of in depth interviews .............................................. 123
   4.5.2.1 RELA ............................................................................ 123
   4.5.2.2 KRT ............................................................................ 123
   4.5.2.3 SRS ............................................................................ 124
   4.5.2.4 In depth interviews with Police in Kuching ....................... 125
   4.5.2.5 In depth interview with secretary of SCPA ....................... 125
   4.5.2.6 SCPA citizen patrol group as revealed by SCPA secretary ...... 126
4.6 The level of citizen participation in community policing in Kuching ........ 128
   4.6.1 Citizen crime prevention ..................................................... 128
   4.6.2 Citizen participation in crime prevention has helped in crime reduction ... 130
   4.6.3 Police and citizen patrol and safety status by geographical areas ...... 132
   4.6.4 Result of in-depth interviews .............................................. 137
   4.6.4.1 RELA ............................................................................ 137
   4.6.4.2 KRT ............................................................................ 137
   4.6.4.3 SRS ............................................................................ 137
4.7 Use of technology in crime prevention ......................................... 139
   4.7.1 Focus group discussion result on use of technology in crime prevention ... 142
   4.7.2 In depth interviews with KRT, SRS and RELA leaders ............ 143
CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION .... 146

5.1 Introduction ................................................................. 146

5.2 Discussion ................................................................. 146
   5.2.1 Citizen participation in community policing ......................... 147
   5.2.2 Police and citizen joint community policing programmes ............. 150
   5.2.3 Citizen and police coproduction in crime prevention ................. 151
   5.2.4 Sharing of crime information in pursuit of crime prevention .......... 152
   5.2.5 Qualitative and quantitative data complimented each other .......... 153

5.3 Implications of overseas community policing in Kuching.................... 154

5.4 Study limitations ........................................................ 154

5.5 Future research .......................................................... 155

5.6 Policy recommendations ............................................... 156

5.8 Conclusion ............................................................... 158

REFERENCES .................................................................. 159

APPENDICES .................................................................. 189
LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1  Problem-Oriented Policing in Practice’ in Criminology and Public Policy, (Gordner and Perkins, 2005 pp 158) .............................................. 24

Table 2.2  The difference between traditional policing and community policing by Malcolm K Sparrow mentioned in his article November, 1988 ................................................................. 75

Table 3.1  Focus Group Discussion Respondents ............................................................ 81

Table 3.2  In-depth Interview’s Respondents ................................................................. 83

Table 3.3  Number of respondents at nine police stations selected for field surveys . . 85

Table 3.4  Age group of respondents ......................................................................... 85

Table 3.5  Number of respondents by type of dwelling unit, sex and race ................. 87

Table 3.6  Chi Square Test for police and citizen patrol and safety status

Chi-Square tests ................................................................. 92

Table 3.7  Police and SCPA Joint patrol and level of crime in the neighbourhood .... 96

Table 3.8  Association between fear of crime and the ordinal variables – Citizen patrol, SCPA members and police joint patrol and police patrol ......... 98

Table 4.1  Association between level of crime and the ordinal variables ............. 104

Table 4.2  ANOVA analysis of police and citizen patrol and level of crime in the neighbourhood ................................................................. 105

Table 4.3  Test of Homogeneity of Variances between police, citizen patrol and level of crime ................................................................. 106

Table 4.4  Police and SCPA Joint patrol and level of crime in the neighbourhood .... 107

Table 4.5  Test of Homogeneity of Variances - Independent variable is crime and dependent variable is police and SCPA joint patrol .................. 107
Table 4.6  Association between fear of crime and the ordinal variables – Citizen patrol, SCPA members and police joint patrol and police patrol

Table 4.7  Test of Homogeneity of Variances – police and citizen patrol and citizen perception on fear of crime

Table 4.8  Citizen participation in crime prevention by sex expressed in percentage

Table 4.9  Chi Square Test for police and citizen patrol and safety status

Table 4.10  Frequency of police and citizen joint crime prevention patrol and safety status in the neighbourhood

Table 4.11  Test of Homogeneity of Variances between police and citizen patrol in crime prevention and safety of the neighbourhood

Table 4.12  Frequency of citizen and police patrol against crime in past 12 months

Table 4.13  Chi square test on frequency of community policing patrol and crime

Table 4.14  Frequency of using technology and its effectiveness in crime prevention

Table 4.15  Chi Square Test to assess the statistical significance of technology and crime

Table 4.16  Summary of qualitative data collected
# LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figure 1.1</td>
<td>Map of Kuching Police District geographical area of coverage showing the nine police stations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 1.2</td>
<td>Crime reported to the police in Malaysia from 2005 to 2017</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.1</td>
<td>Coproduction between Police and Community where community called for police service</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.2</td>
<td>Coproduction between Police and Community where police request community’s help and the community compiled</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.3</td>
<td>Coproduction between Police and Community where police and community have a mutual planned cooperation</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.4</td>
<td>Flow chart illustrating the cycle of the broken windows hypothesis highlighting the role of fear of crime</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.5</td>
<td>The broken windows hypothesis</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.6</td>
<td>Relationships between variables</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.7</td>
<td>Crime statistics Malaysia – 2006 to 2018</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 3.1</td>
<td>Thematic analysis process</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4.1</td>
<td>Respondents by type of occupation</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4.2</td>
<td>Number of respondents by geographical areas</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4.3</td>
<td>Crime Rates in Kuching from 2010 to 2018</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4.4</td>
<td>Citizen perception on fear of crime in Kuching</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4.5</td>
<td>Kuching crime rates from 2010 to 2018</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 4.6  Respondents’ responses by percentage on if the crime in 2018 was lower than five years ago ………………………………………………….. 116

Figure 4.7  Crime prevention – citizen and police roles shares by the respondents… 118

Figure 4.8  Clarke and Eck’s crime triangle…………………………………………… 129

Figure 4.9  Citizen participation in crime prevention by geographical areas……….. 131

Figure 4.10  Number of respondents who felt that citizen participation in crime prevention has helped in crime reduction by percentage…………………. 132

Figure 4.11  Frequency for police and citizen patrol and safety status by areas …….. 133
# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACP</td>
<td>Assistant Commissioner of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAD</td>
<td>Computer Aided Dispatching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTV</td>
<td>Closed Circuit Television</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP</td>
<td>Deputy Commissioner of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPD</td>
<td><em>Ibu Pejabat Daerah</em> (police district headquarters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOBAN</td>
<td>Police small organizational unit in Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRT</td>
<td><em>Kawasan Rukun Tetangga</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLP</td>
<td>Mass line policing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPS</td>
<td>Ministry of public security (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPP</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Police Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRPP</td>
<td>National reassurance policing programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>People’s Republic of China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAKAN COP</td>
<td>Friends of the Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCP</td>
<td>Royal Commission of inquiry to enhance the operation and management of the Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELA</td>
<td><em>Ikatan Relawan Rakyat Malaysia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMP</td>
<td>Royal Malaysia Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCPA</td>
<td>Sarawak Community Policing Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRS</td>
<td><em>Skim Rondaan Sukarela</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>United State of America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Security of lives and properties is very important in every society to allow or improve peaceful co-existence between individuals, groups and communities. When social regulation breaks down, the controlling influence of society on individual propensities is no longer effective; and individuals are left to their own devices. Such a situation, Durkheim called it, anomie, a term refers to a condition of relative normlessness in a whole society or some of its component groups. It characterises a condition in which individual desires are no longer regulated by common norms and consequently, individuals are left without moral guidance in the pursuit of their goals (Durkheim in Coser, 1977; Hilbert, 1986; Mukherjee, 2010; Cotterrell, 2010; and DiCristina, 2016). This means there is a need for functional rules or regulations that can guide and control the behaviour and activities of individuals or groups in a given society to enable the society to function well, where individuals or groups to some extent, must limit behavioural acts according to accepted and agreed norms in the society.

Anti-social behaviour, social ills and incivilities leads to crime and disorder. Crime impacts economic growth of a nation (Ojog and Dumitru, 2014). Crime has a significant impact on reducing per capita income and employment growth (Peri, 2004). The costs of crime present an opportunity cost as Gaibulloev and Sandler (2011) confirmed this by exploring the effect of crime from transnational and domestic terrorism perspective on the economic progress of 18 European countries. Skogan (2012) in his article on Disorder and Crime published by Oxford University Press (2012) confirmed that unchecked incivilities and disorder not only lead to fear
of crime but with increased crime. Disorder and crime affected individual mobility, neighbourhood cohesion and local economies; and this has become an increasingly important topic in criminology and other disciplines.

Crime statistics from the Royal Malaysia Police showed that from 1997 to 2009, the number of reported crimes had increased from 122,176 to 212676 (Sulaiman, Othma, and D'Silva, 2005; and Royal Malaysia Police, 2019). Criminal activities in Malaysia have been associated with street crimes like snatching, robbery, pickpocketing, carjacking, gang violence, drug dealing and rape (Sidhu, 2005; Tang, 2009; Bahaman, 2009; Suffian 2012).

The increase in crime had concerned the government of Malaysia and policy makers regarding the operation of the police force. Thus, in 2004, the previous government of Malaysia, appointed the Royal Commission to enhance the operation and management of the Royal Malaysia Police (RCP) to study the ways and how the police force can be more efficient in combating crime (RCP report, 2005).

The RCP report in 2005 indicated that public confidence in the police was very low (RCP, 2005 and Teh, 2014). Thus, the RCP, among others, strongly recommended the formation of community policing in the neighbourhood, as a crime watch group to enable the police to partner with the citizens in crime prevention. Community policing encompasses the police to co-operate and work together with the citizen in a creative and effective way to solve community problems in relation to the threat of crime and neighbourhood disorder (Goldstein, 1987; Trojanowiez and Buequeroux, 1994; Masterson and Stevens, 2002; Lo and Cheok, 2004).

The concept of community policing is meant to promote police and community relations in a healthier atmosphere and increase the image of the police to a better level.
The Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) has encouraged members of the public and community to join them in the fight against crime. RMP slogan is “Police and the community is inseparable, and United Against Crime” (RMP, 2017). In Malaysia the partnership between the community and the police has stated since 1967. It is called a “Salleh’s” system, a smart partnership between the community and the police. This Salleh’s system was implemented during Tun Salleh’s time as Inspector General of Police in Malaysia in year 1967 (Sulaiman, Othman, Jamilah, Samah, Baharman and Yero, 2014).

The RMP followed the Japanese KOBAN (police box) system in crime prevention. The Japanese KOBAN system is a place where community police officers mainly carry out their work by a relatively three to five police officers in the community. There are residential police boxes where police will do frequent checks in the community. Each KOBAN covers specific areas and they are situated as a branch of the police station. They are responsible for maintaining the safety of the respective areas by figuring out each security situation and taking requests and concerns of residents into consideration (Leishman, 2007, Sulaiman et al, 2014).

In Kuching, there are police huts in major housing estates manned by police sergeants and corporals. They looked after the housing estate security. RMP made the first step to support the community in crime prevention activities by forming neighbourhood crime watch like the Skim Ronda Sukarela (SRS), and Kawasan Rukun Tetangga (KRT) in 1990. The key objective of these community policing approaches was to enable the police to get closer to the people, to understand their problems and to find solutions to rectify. It is the same community policing approach as stated by Gary Gordner (2014) in the State Police and Community Policing, (COPS)
under Table 2.2 on page 24: “Correspondence of nine elements of community policing for state police which are citizen input, broad function, personal service, geographic focus, prevention emphasis, flexible operations, positive interaction, partnerships and problem solving,” (US Department of Justice publication with Kutztown University, 2014; Gordner, 014).

The then Inspector General of Malaysian Police, Tan Sri Musa Hassan, implemented Community Policing immediately in year 2007; however, there was no indication that crime rate has dropped (Royal Malaysia Police, Bukit Aman report, May, 2017).

In year 2013, the former Inspector General of Malaysian Police, Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, was assigned to spearhead the community policing programmes with the formation of the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Department (JPJKK) in Royal Malaysia Police. With this JPJKK concept, in every police district, there is a police officer supervising the Crime Prevention and Community Safety programmes.

Crime rate\(^1\) has dropped from 764.8 in 2009 to 306.15 in 2017 (Royal Malaysia Police, Bukit Aman, April, 2018). However, there has been neither prior study on whether the drop-in crime was due to community policing, nor study has been conducted on the level of citizen participation in community policing programmes in Malaysia or specifically in Kuching, Sarawak. Thus, there is a need for a study to understand the relationship between community policing and crime prevention in Kuching, Sarawak which is the focus of this study.

\(^1\) Crime rate is calculated based on the number of reported crime divided by the total population multiply 100,000.