THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRIME AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SABAH

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DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ECONOMICS

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22 SEPTEMBER 2016

ROHANA BINTI ARPA

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Crime is an act which is unlawful and offenders may be punished commensurate with the crime committed. Criminal act can be a major problem for the country if not addressed from the beginning. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to analyse the relationship between crime and economic development in Sabah. This research used mixed method approach which is the combination of quantitative and qualitative method. The results indicate that property crime and violent crime had an impact towards the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Sabah. Based on the results, it shows that property crime had a negative relationship towards GDP in Sabah and there is causality between the variables. Other than that, both of the crimes had an impact in terms of cost of crime towards GDP in Sabah. Crime is one of the major problems that have been faced by most of the countries and it cause not only in term of social problem but also gives a large impact to the economic. The role from other parties is needed in order to addresses the crime issues.
ABSTRAK

HUBUNGAN ANTARA JENAYAH DAN PEMBANGUNAN EKONOMI DI SABAH

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Nowadays, crime is one of the issues that really concerns not only to the society but to the country itself. As a developing country, Malaysia is also not deviated from facing the crime problems which needs to be paid full attention. The mass media always show the stories about the crime situations that make the societies feel anxious and worried about.

Crime can be defined as an act which is unlawful and offenders may be punished commensurate with the crime committed. Besides that, crime also can be defined as an act or an instance of negligence that is against the law and punishable upon conviction (Ojog, 2014: 466). According to Iglesias et al. (2012: 3942), one of the general definitions of crime stated that committing a crime is breaking one or more rules or laws, which defined by a social group through some kind of social contract.

In addition, in terms of religious, Nga et al. (2011: 178) stated that crime is considered as a sin and indeed an immoral act, therefore it is sinful for those who are committing crimes. Therefore, based on this definition, it is to be assumable that individuals who are committed crimes will be facing punishments depending to the level of their crime.
According to Sidhu (2005:4), Royal Malaysian Police Department has classified the types of crimes into two indexes. They are crime index and non-crime index. Crime index can be defined as a crime that reported with sufficient regularity and significance of adequate as a means of index to the crime situation. Non-crime index are like drug abuse, white collar crimes, illegal syndicates, and also gambling activities.

Sidhu (2005: 5) also claim that Royal Malaysian Police Department also classified the crime index into two categories as property crime and also violent crime. According to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), violent crimes can be divided into four types of offenses, such as, murder and non-negligent manslaughter, robbery, forcible rape, and aggravated assault, while property crime is divided into several offenses such as larceny-theft, burglary, arson, and motor vehicle theft.

The participation of an individual in committing crime is regardless of the person’s age, background, or whether the individual is young or old. Obviously, crime is an incidence of all groups of ages, depending on how the individuals within such age classifications in their confrontations. However, according to Shaloo (1937: 79) based on the cases of Crowley, Hickman, and Clyde Barrow Cases, the newspapers often exploited such associated explanations that stated youth is more likely to involve in crimes involving violence.

The participations of youth in criminal activities are worrying to all parties. This situation is because youth as a generation that has a huge population in a country compared to the other groups of age is a valuable asset in the formation of a country. According to the Act of Youth Societies and Youth Development 2007 or Act 668, youth can be defined as those who are aged between 15 years to 40 years old, while United Nations defined youth as those who are aged between 15 years to 24 years old.
United Nations also added that the definitions of youth may change due to circumstances such as the changes in demographic, financial, economic, and socio-cultural settings. However, the definition of youth within the age of 15 years to 24 years old served its statistical purposes for evaluating the needs of the young people and providing guidelines or rules for youth development. Besides that, United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) also defined youth as a progression from the childhood to adulthood and attentiveness of our interdependence as members of a community.

However, according to Youth and Sports Ministry, they will implement youth age limit from 15 to 30 years old in year 2018 after getting requests from youth organizations. The Malaysian Youth Policy that will be implemented starting year 2018 in order to replace the National Youth Development Policy in 1997 which set the age limit of youth 15 to 30 years old instead of 15 to 40 years old previously.

Conger (1991: 3) alleged that some people believe that young people today are becoming more rootless, more emotionally, and more self-centred and materialistic comparing to young people of early generations. Thus, Conger (1991: 3) cited from Conger, 1981, 1988; Wolfe, 1976, stated that in support of this opinion, youth have cited high rates of delinquency and other crimes at the expense of societal concerned.

Media reports and government initiatives are both reflecting the perceived problems posed to the society that link between young people and crimes as these issues have been well documented in contemporary society. Youth is the majority group in population will lead to the leadership of a nation in the future. It is very important for a nation or a country to provide a good quality of life for youth to develop in a healthier and economical balanced environment. Instead of reacting in a positive manners, youth often seen as a threat to social environment because of their engagement in several of social problems particularly crimes.
Crime often generates fear and lead to victimization and also people's over reaction. This situation is due to the crime itself that affects people on various levels. As the population ages and older people begin to worry about their personal safety and security, crimes issues become increasingly significant. Due to this feeling of insecurity, people will start to avoid outdoors and health activities like sports and exercising for being afraid getting hurts, especially elderly and children at most.

Taylor (1995: 29) also claims that the consequences in terms of residents' behaviour includes putting limitations on their activities, avoid being in dangerous places, participating less in local affairs, and some even decided to move away from neighbourhood or out of the city.

Loss of properties, lives, and generating depression are not the only results that crime can bring, but also cause severe negative impact in term of economy. It is because, according to Baharom and Habibullah (2008: 2), crime can bring potential negative impacts into primary costing such as the prevention cost, while secondary costing is the correctional cost, and lastly the loss of opportunity of labour being held in the correctional facilities.

Other consequences, crime activities can also lead to both direct and indirect cost of living of societies. In terms of direct costing, crime activity can results to the cost of value of lives loss, loss of wages, damaged goods, and reduced trade activities. While indirect costing included higher insurance premiums and increased levels of security such as for housing and public building alarms, as well as requiring more police resources (Detoto and Pulina, 2013: 184).

The crimes not only just affect the societies but it also affects the national economy. Detoto and Pulina (2013: 206) hypotheses suggest that these effects act on various levels which are discouraging the investment in crime hot spots,
reducing the firm's competitiveness by increasing operation cost, spending national budget on security and also fighting crime. However, the cost of crime prevention is more than to build an efficient area such as infrastructure, education, and research program.

Moreover, the crimes may also increase the cost of the country in dealing with the problems of crime. Soares (2015: 135) added that there is also the social waste from the value of goods lost and destroyed the public and private expenditure on prevention. Besides that, the cost related to the criminal justice and prison systems also give a social waste to the public. The negative impact will occur on the development of the countries when the cost of the country keeps increasing.

Youth, crime and economic development have a relationship in the formation of a country. Youth as a property of a country have an important role in order to make sure that the country will be in a stable condition in the future. If the crime rate is increasing, of course it will give a negative impact on the development of a country. As economic development leads to the creation of more opportunities in the sectors of education, health, human development, research, and environmental protection, it equally implies an increase in the per capita income of every citizen. In order to achieve a developed country, efforts from various parties are needed to ensure that the crime rate can be reduced.

1.2 Background Of Study

In this study, the researcher conducted a research about the relationship between crime and GDP in Sabah. The researcher focuses in crime among youth in Sabah and the impacts of crime towards the economic in Sabah. Sabah is Malaysia's second largest state and known as the “Land Below the Wind”. It is one of the 14 states in Malaysia located at the northern part of Borneo Island alongside Sarawak. Sabah has a land area of about 73,631 square kilometres consists of rich natural resources on both land and oceans.
However, despite the bountiful of natural sources and exotic floral and faunas, Sabah is also not an exception in many problems involving crimes. The table below shows the crime index reported according to types of offense in Sabah. There are two types of crime index. They are property crime and violent crime.

**Table 1.1: Crime Reported to the Police by Nature of Offence, Sabah**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Offence</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder and attempted suicide</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery and extortion</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grievous harm</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riot</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molest</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property crime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housebreak and theft</td>
<td>877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles theft</td>
<td>627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorry and van theft</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car theft</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle theft</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snatch theft</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others theft</td>
<td>1491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: The Royal Malaysia Police, Bukit Aman Commercial Crime Investigation Department, Sabah Contingent)

Overall, for violent crime, the figure for cases decreased from 2012 to 2014 by 167 cases. The decrease in reported violent crime cases is more than 50% from the increasing cases from 2010 to 2012. Although there were decreased amount in violent crime from the past three years, researcher may assumed that there were possibly other cases of violent crime which were not reported or informed by the victims. Therefore, the decline in reported violent crime cases does not justify or prove that there are literally no as much crime as reported the years before.

Property crime was reported to be increasing from 2010 to 2014. In just five years there was an increased in a total of 1295 cases in year 2010 to 2014 in this type of crime alone. Almost every type of theft has been showing an increase yearly, except for snatch theft which happened to be in a slight drop in every two years.

Overall, for property crime, although there was an increase from 2010 to 2011, however the reported cases has decreased gradually from 2012 to 2014, with the highest peak of 5043 reported cases in 2012. Even though there was a decreased in the latest three years, however the total number of reported cases is still great and economically concerned.

However, the crime rate in Sabah cannot be underestimated. Crimes certainly affected both economic and social terms. In this study, the researcher examines the effects of property crime and violent crime on economic development.
in Sabah by using GDP as an indicator for economic development. The graph below shows the GDP in Sabah for the year 2010 until 2013.

![Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Sabah](image)

**Figure 1.1: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Sabah**
(Sources: Department of Statistics Sabah, 2013)

Based on the graph above, GDP in Sabah increased over the four consecutive years from the year 2010 until 2013. Although the rate of GDP in Sabah increases over the four years, but the increasing rate in crime definitely affect the income of the country. As we know, our economy is interdependent with various sectors such as service sector, construction sector, agriculture sector, and so on.

The service sector is a sector that most contributes to the national income will be affected if there is an increase in crime. When there is an increase in crime, it will directly affect to other sectors such as tourism which will provide a lucrative return for the country. Therefore, it has inspired the researcher to do a research about the impact of crime towards the economic in Sabah. With this study, the
researcher hopes that it can help the authorities to reduce the crime rate thus accelerating GDP in Sabah in the future.

Table 1.2: Index crime for the states in Malaysia during Jan-March 2013 and Jan-March 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDEX CRIME</th>
<th>Jan – March 2013</th>
<th>Jan – March 2014</th>
<th>+/-</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarawak</td>
<td>2397</td>
<td>1831</td>
<td>-566</td>
<td>-23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perlis</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>-46</td>
<td>-18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulau Pinang</td>
<td>2207</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>-326</td>
<td>-14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melaka</td>
<td>1072</td>
<td>916</td>
<td>-156</td>
<td>-14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johor</td>
<td>4300</td>
<td>3776</td>
<td>-524</td>
<td>-12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>5414</td>
<td>4954</td>
<td>-460</td>
<td>-8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terengganu</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>-71</td>
<td>-8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perak</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1787</td>
<td>-149</td>
<td>-7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selangor</td>
<td>10336</td>
<td>9711</td>
<td>-625</td>
<td>-6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kedah</td>
<td>2157</td>
<td>2079</td>
<td>-78</td>
<td>-3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negeri Sembilan</td>
<td>1513</td>
<td>1527</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sabah</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelantan</td>
<td>1340</td>
<td>1373</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pahang</td>
<td>1296</td>
<td>1354</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MALAYSIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>36380</strong></td>
<td><strong>33498</strong></td>
<td><strong>-2882</strong></td>
<td><strong>-7.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1.2 shows the index crime for the states in Malaysia during Jan-March 2013 and Jan-March 2014. Based on the table 1.2, though Sabah is not the states that has a dangerous level of crime rate compared to the other states in Malaysia, but Sabah is in the third place that has the highest number of crime increased. The percentage increased by 1.1% compared to Pahang and Kelantan, respectively in first and second place by 4.5% and 2.5%. Therefore, this percentage cannot be taken lightly as it can affect both economic and social situation in the country.

Mass Media News Report about Crime Statistics

According to Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen Sabah, the statistics of crime rate in overall rate shows a decline for the year 2012. Statistics for the year 2012 show a decrease in the crime index for the two categories of crime which is violent crime and property crime. The number of reported cases was 6003 cases in year 2012 compared to 6617 cases in year 2011 which is a decrease of 614 cases or 9.28 per cent (%).

In addition, Berita Ehwal Semasa of Radio Televisyen Malaysia Sabah, dated 26th May 2014 presented that crime index in Sabah declined to 2119 cases or 3.9 per cent for the period of January to May 2014 compared to 2205 cases recorded for the same period last year (2015). According to Datuk Wira Hamza Taib, a total of 942 cases had been solved. Among these cases, burglary shows a decrease of 61 cases, from 682 cases in 2013 to 521 cases in 2014. Violent crime also dropped from 340 cases in 2015 to 332 cases 2014. Besides that, property crime also shows the decline which is 1865 cases in 2013 to 1787 in year 2014.

In the news of Berita Wilayah dated 2nd May 2014, it was presented that the rate of crime in Kota Kinabalu has risen 9.59 per cent from January until March 2014. According to Police Chief of Kota Kinabalu, ACP Jauteh Dikun, the rate of crime has risen from 344 cases to 377 cases. Property crime includes stolen motorcycles (43 cases), stolen van, truck and heavy machinery (16 cases), bringing
REFERENCES


