

Budget hotels blamed

Hourly room rates linked to high number of khalwat cases

BUDGET hotels that rent out rooms by the hour have contributed to the high number of *khalwat* (close proximity) cases in Selangor, *Sinar Harian* reported.

Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) investigation and enforcement assistant director Sharom Maarof said arrests pertaining to *khalwat* topped the cases recorded by Jais last year.

Most of the cases involved people aged between 20 and 30 years, he said.

He added that although there were fewer cases than in 2010, the number was still high.

Last year, the department recorded 1,734 cases of *khalwat* com-



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pared with 1,783 in 2010.

Regarding arrests for gambling, Sharom said such cases had reduced dramatically, from 331 in 2010 to 75 last year.

Cases involving alcohol consumption had also gone down, with 18 arrests last year against 96 in

the previous year.

Meanwhile, Prof Turiman Suandi from Universiti Putra Malaysia's education faculty said social problems occurred mostly among Malay youths.

He said religious guidance must start from the home, with the father – as head of the family – showing the way by leading the family in prayers together.

Prof Turiman said this could go a long way towards preventing incidents of children running away from home, drug abuse and divorce.

> A 33-year-old man was held captive for 12 hours in a room, where a group of transvestites

allegedly beat him up and demanded RM1,000 from him.

Seeing that he had only RM250 in his wallet, they forced the victim to call his family members or friends to deposit the money in one of their bank accounts.

The victim was released after his captors withdrew the money at around midnight, 12 hours after he was held at the house in Chow Kit, Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday afternoon.

The victim had earlier helped one of the transvestites to carry some goods to the house.

He reported the incident at the Ampang police station, which has referred the matter to the Dang Wangi police station.