

NO83: (F)
MAHATHIR-SMUGGLING

ALOR STAR, SEPT. 18 (BERNAMA) -- CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION CHECK POINTS AT CHANGLOON WILL BE MOVED NEARER TO THE MALAYSIAN-THAI BORDER AT BUKIT KAYU HITAM SOON.

THE MOVE WAS TO ENSURE A COMMANDING CHECK ON SMUGGLING AND ILLEGAL ENTRANTS INTO THE COUNTRY, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO TIGHTEN ITS BORDER CHECK ALONG THE MALAYSIAN-THAI BORDER ESPECIALLY IN KEDAH AND PERLIS.

MORE INTENSIFIED BORDER PATROLS, MOBILE PATROLS AND CHECKPOINTS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT ALONG THE MALAYSIAN-THAI BORDER.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO FENCE THE BORDER AT CHUPING TO PREVENT FURTHER INCIDENTS OF ARMED ROBBERY AND TO PREVENT PEOPLE ENTERING THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY.

THE BARB-WIRE FENCING WHICH WOULD STRETCH FOR ABOUT 10 MILES WOULD COST ABOUT \$3 MILLION, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID AFTER A MEETING KEDAH UMNO YOUTH LEADERS HERE.

HE SAID THE MOVE TO TIGHTEN THE BORDER PATROL AGAINST SMUGGLING AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE MADE BY THE TWO CABINET COMMITTEES ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AND DANGEROUS DRUGS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1713/A1

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HE SAID THE DECISIONS WERE MADE FOLLOWING REPORTS OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF SMUGGLING AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ACTIVITIES ALONG THE BORDER.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED OVER THE SITUATION AND WOULD TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE ACTION TO COUNTER THEM, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1721/A1