

SMART CARDS TO CUT DELAYS

S 18 DEC 1991
By WONG CHUN WAI (P)

KUALA LUMPUR: Frequent travellers will be issued smart cards for hassle-free processing at immigration checkpoints.

The traveller need only insert the card into a machine which will record details of his entry into the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

He said the card, which would supplement the passport, would be made available as soon as possible to those who travelled overseas often, especially businessmen.

"It is not a right. It is a special privilege," he said. The Government would be selective when issuing the cards, he added.

The Immigration Department was deciding on the type of card to use, he told newsmen after presenting the Prime Minister's Quality Awards at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir said foreigners who visited the country often would also be eligible for the card. There will be special lanes for cardholders.

Dr Mahathir said the smart cards would not replace passports, adding that the move was aimed at easing congestion at immigration counters.

He said since the launching of the Quality Work movement more than a year ago, there had been vast changes and improvement in the civil service.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had cut down red-tape and simplified forms used by the public.

The winners of the Prime Minister's awards were the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia, (public sector), Motorola (private), and the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (social) which received a trophy, \$30,000, and a certificate each.