

Dr M: No second chance for illegal workers

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The Government's decision to terminate the registration exercise for illegal foreign workers on June 30 is final.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there would be no extension as they had been given ample time to register.

After the deadline, Ops Nyah II was launched yesterday to track down and detain those without valid documents.

Dr Mahathir was responding to questions by reporters on the operation after attending the Ma'al Hijrah celebration at Stadium Negara.

The operation against illegal foreign workers entered its second day today with more than 600 having been rounded up in the last 48 hours.

Johor topped the list with 356 illegal workers held.

Some of those picked up have been sent to the holding centres in various States while the rest are still detained at police stations.

Police have warned that the operations will continue until all the workers, mostly employed in the construction and plantation sectors, have been roped in.

When the registration exercise ended on Tuesday, only 320,000 illegal immigrants had registered. Police are now going after more than 100,000 others who have not registered.

A senior official at the Home Ministry's operations room said the operation to weed out the illegal workers would be carried out in stages.

This was because of the limited space to accommodate them.

He said the Public Works Department was expected to complete the living quarters at the holding centres for the illegal immigrants by the end of this month.

The Government had allocated \$17.6 million for renovating old buildings and erecting new ones at the Area Security Unit (UKK) and Police Field Force (PFF) camps for the purpose.

PWD director-general Datuk Wan Abdul Rahman Yaacob said the short notice of slightly over one month given to it had made it difficult for the department to complete the structures before the June 30 deadline.

The Home Ministry official said at present the police were using tents to house some of the workers.

"We can house about 2,000 workers rounded up at present but once the PWD completes its job, the number

PLEASE TURN TO
PAGE 3, COL. 4

\$10m to feed 3,000 in detention camps

□ FROM PAGE ONE

will be increased to 3,000. More people can be squeezed in if necessary just like what is happening in prison now."

The nine camps are Kem Juru, Bukit Mertajam (to serve Penang, Kedah and Perlis), Kem Langkap (for Perak), Kem Dusun Tua and Kem Semenyih (for Selangor), Kem Lenggeng (for Negeri Sembilan), Kem Machap Umboo, Alor Gajah (for Malacca), Kem Pekan Nenas, Pontian and Kem Kelapa Sawit, Labis (for Johor), and Kem Kemayan, Temerloh (for Pahang).

The official said the Ke-

mayan centre near Temerloh could not be used because there was no water supply yet and the foreigners were now kept at Kerayong.

For Selangor, only the Dusun Tua centre can be used as the other at Semenyih has not been completed.

The official said the Government had allocated \$10 million to feed these 3,000 people staying in the camps for a whole year. More funds will be requested if the numbers increase.

The Government is expected to meet the expenses incurred in holding and deporting the immigrants

from the levy imposed on the foreign workers.

Kuala Lumpur city police rounded up 200 foreigners early today. Only one Indonesian was arrested after screening.

The operation concentrated on construction sites and "kongsis" in Sentul Pasar, Wangsa Maju, Jalan Tunku and Lorong Tun Ismail.

Yesterday, 28 Bangladeshis and eight Indonesians were picked up from several construction sites in Cheras.

In Johor, two Indonesians gave themselves up at the Batu Pahat police station about 2pm today. Police de-

tained 354, including eight Thais, in separate operations in Segamat, Kluang, Kota Tinggi, Muar and Mersing and Johor Baru.

Segamat recorded the highest number of arrests (109), followed by Johor Baru (101), Kota Tinggi (93), Kluang (35), Muar (12) and Mersing (4).

Those arrested in Johor Baru and Segamat have been sent to the detention centre in Pekan Nenas, about 45km from here, pending deportation while the others are in police lockups.

Yesterday, 93 Indonesians and eight Thais were picked up from a construction site

at Skudai Baru, Johor Baru.

In Malacca, 12 Indian nationals were rounded up in a plantation in Kesang, Jasin, today bringing the total detained at the Machap Umbu camp to 102.

In Perak, Ops Nyah II is expected to begin tomorrow. It will focus on Lower Perak where many foreigners are employed in plantations.

In Kuantan, Pahang police chief Senior Assistant Commissioner Zakaria Chek said more than 100 foreigners had been picked up. He believes there are 30,000 foreigners working in the State.