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All NRD offices to go on-line by 2002

PETALING JAYA, Fri. - The National Registration Department will spend RM204 million to computerise all 187 offices nationwide by 2002 to provide more efficient and speedier service to the public.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said today 72 offices would benefit under the first phase.

"The rest will go on-line by 2002," he said, adding the completion of the exercise would mean better service like speedier issue of identity cards.

Moreover, any NRD office can check any application for identity card with its headquarters once the offices are on-line.

Speaking after his first official visit to the NRD headquarters here, Tajol Rosli, who was accompanied by director-general Azizan Ayob, said the computerisation process would include the delivery, assembly, and establishment of mainframe servers to all NRD offices.

The contractor would also be required to train personnel to run the computers.

Tajol Rosli said to date, 13.5 million new identity cards have been issued and another 1.9 million would be processed by Dec 31.

However, he said, the issue of new identity cards might be halted if the Government approved the proposed multi-purpose smart card.

"We expect the first exercise to convert the current identity card to the smart card to be in early 1999. However, this will again depend on the Government," he added.

On Jan 21, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the Government would issue the multi-purpose smart card as part of its plan to achieve a paperless Government.

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