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Forgers

HOME MINISTRY TO INVOKE ISA AGAINST IDENTITY CARD FORGERS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- The Home Ministry has warned identity cards forgers that it will invoke the Internal Security Act (ISA), which allows detention without trial, against them.

The deputy minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said today the ministry suspected something strange when so many immigrants checked by the authorities during raids, had red identity cards.

"There must be a syndicate involved because a large capital is needed to produce forged identity cards. So we suspected that something was not right (when so many immigrants were found with red identity cards)," he said.

Several people involved in the forgery of identity cards had been detained under the ISA, he said.

"Passport and identity card forgers are a threat to national security," he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, near here.

Tajol Rosli was there to see off Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali who left for Yangon for a two-day official visit to Myanmar.

Yesterday, Internal Security and Public Order Deputy Director Datuk Mohd Yusof Mohd Said said the police, with the cooperation of the National Registration Department, would launch a nation-wide check on red identity card holders.

The operation was prompted by information that most of the permanent residents' red identity cards were forged, Mohd Yusof said.

Tajol Rosli described the impending action by the police and the department as appropriate in the interest of national security.

He said the authorities had sophisticated equipment to authenticate the cards.

Holders of fake red identity cards would be repatriated, he added. --

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