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Upgraded security checks at Parliament House

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Those visiting Parliament House will from now on have to go through similar security procedures like at airports.

Individuals will have to pass a metal detector, while their bags will be scanned at the X-ray machine.

And if the need arises, a hand held metal detector will be used for full body search.

Members of Parliament, government officers and the public will need to place their bags through the scanner while policemen will monitor the display screen to establish whether prohibited items are carried.

The RM250,000 system which is based on X-ray screening technology will be installed at the two main doors of the Parliament building.

Dewan Rakyat secretary Datuk Mohd Salleh Hassan said this was part of the measures to improve security at the House.

"Moreover, many MPs have voiced out their dissatisfaction over the security. We feel there is a need for us to beef up the security system here."

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to table the Third Outline Perspective (2001-2010) on April 3 and the Eighth Malaysia Plan on April 23.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah will open the 10th Parliament meeting on Monday.

The meeting will begin on March 20 and MPs will be meeting for 25 days until May 3.

Nine Bills had to be carried forward from last year's meeting. Among them are the Road Transport Department Bill (amendment) 2000, the Offshore Insurance Bill (amendment) 2000 and Strata Title amendment Bill 2000.

Four new Bills will be tabled. They are the Gas Supply (Amendment) Bill 2001, Postal Services (Amendment) Bill 2001, Digital Signature (Amendment) Bill 2001 and Co-operatives Bill (Amendment) Bill 2001.

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