

Mobile units to process MyKad applications

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PETALING JAYA: Beginning next year, the National Registration Department (NRD) will introduce a mobile service in all states to process MyKad applications.

Two buses would be allocated to each state to take the service to housing estates and densely-populated areas while four-wheel-drives would be used to reach remote areas.

The NRD would also rent space in shopping complexes or visit public exhibition areas to process applications, even on public holidays.

"We want to make it convenient for the people to apply

for MyKad. All they have to do is to bring their identity cards and driving licences and we will process the applications without them having to fill up any papers," NRD director-general Datuk Azizan Ayob told a press conference yesterday.

"To achieve our target of making MyKad used by the adult population by 2005, we will set up 29 new branches nationwide, work on certain public holidays and provide extended hours of our service."

"We have to issue 17 million cards within the period. So far, 2.6 million Malaysians have got the MyKad," said Azizan, adding that he hoped to get

more staff as the NRD expected to process about 15,000 MyKad applications daily from next year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed had announced during the Budget speech that all Malaysians would be in possession of the MyKad by 2005.

Malaysia is the first country to introduce MyKad, a multi-purpose smartcard based on chip technology and biometrics with high security features. It will incorporate applications such as ATM, MEPS, Touch 'n' Go, E-Cash and information on the holder's driving licence, health, marital status and voting constituency.