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MyKad cases: ISA may be used

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Government will rely on the recommendations of the police on whether to detain under the Internal Security Act those who issued MyKad identity cards to illegal immigrants in Sabah.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who visited the Securities Commission here today, added that the Government would wait for the police findings and recommendations before deciding on the next course of action.

"As far as I know, the police are conducting their investigations to determine how the Mykads fell into the hands of foreigners living in squatter areas and who were responsible," he said after a three-hour meeting with SC officials.

MyKad, which was launched on Sept 5, 2001, holds personal information obtained from the IC, passport and driving licence and will soon be configured further to hold the health records of the card owner as well.

The smart card also has security features that make use of thumb prints and holograms to prevent forgery.

The case of these sophisticated identity cards falling into the hands of foreigners came to light when Sabah police conducted Ops Nyah II to nab illegal immigrants on Feb 26.

They found several illegal Indonesian and Filipino immigrants in possession of Mykads.

Police arrested the immigrants, including a woman, in the squatter areas of Keningau, Lahad Datu, Kota Kinabalu and Pulau Gaya.

On who would take over as Deputy Prime Minister when he succeeds Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October next year, Abdullah said:

"I will announce it. Just wait."

Asked if the matter would be discussed at the Umno supreme council meeting tomorrow, Abdullah said the meeting would be a "normal one".