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Tighter checks on all PR applications

PUTRAJAYA, Wed. - The Government has no intention of limiting the issue of permanent resident status to foreigners based on a nationality but instead will tighten checks on the backgrounds of the applicants.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin said today the past record of applicants, going back five or six years, would be looked at to ensure that they had good behaviour and would not jeopardise the country's security or racial harmony.

"The question of introducing a quota system does not arise at all. If we introduce the system, then we will have to follow or abide by the quota that has been set.

"Instead, if we think that in a particular year there are applicants whom we consider not eligible, then we will reject them." Zainal Abidin was speaking to reporters after a Hari Raya reception organised by his ministry at the KDN Complex. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were also present.

In view of the rising crime rate by people with PR status in the country, Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Aseh Che Mat had proposed that the process of granting PR status be further tightened.

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