

11 SEP 2003

Parliament-Blacklist

160,000 BLACKLISTED FROM ENTERING MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Immigration has blacklisted 160,000 people from entering the country in the interest of national security, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

They included active members of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung told the House during Question Time.

They were barred to prevent them from jeopardising the country's peace and security not only from the aspect of subversive and criminal activities but also from all other aspects, he said.

They were blacklisted based on established criteria, he told Teresa Kok (DAP-Seputeh) during Question Time in the House.

Teresa wanted to know if JI members were also in the Malaysian Immigration blacklist.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Finance Ministry Hashim Ismail told the House that deposits from government agencies made up about 20 per cent of the entire deposits in the Islamic Banking system in the country.

This clearly showed the government's backing for the Islamic Banking system, he said when winding up the debate on the Islamic Banking (Amendment) Bill 2003.

He said the government always encouraged its agencies to use the Islamic Banking services.

He rejected the claim by the PAS member for Kuala Kedah Mohamad Sabu that the Islamic Banking services were used more by PAS members than government supporters.

The Bill was aimed at empowering the Finance Minister to provide licences to foreign companies to step up Islamic Banks in Malaysia.

The Bill was later passed.

The Dewan will sit again tomorrow at 4pm for the tabling of the Budget by the Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

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