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Travel in Asean soon with your MyKad

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PETALING JAYA, Tues. - Holders of MyKad, the multi-purpose card, may soon be able to travel to certain countries without having to bring their passports along.

National Registration Department director-general Datuk Azizan Ayob said if implemented, the latest application, the Frequent Traveller Card, could substitute the usage of passport for easy passage to other countries.

"We are likely to target the Asean countries. In fact, we have discussed

this with our counterparts in Brunei, Thailand and Singapore.

"Brunei has shown interest to work with us," he said at the department's

Hari Raya open house here today.

The frequent traveller card, to be incorporated into MyKad, would allow the holders to enter into any country, which has the same application.

MyKad has already incorporated seven applications - identity card, driving licence, passport information, health information, ecash, Touch 'n

Go service, and the Public Key Infrastructure.

Met at the same function, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin said Malaysians were given up to end of 2005 to change their old identity cards to MyKad or faced the possibility of being fined.

"The NRD will look into this matter as the Government had given sufficient time to change it," he said.

In the 2003 Budget, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, said the Government had decided to issue MyKad free of charge beginning tomorrow until Dec 31, 2005.