

# Govt considers law to protect assets

The Sun - 15/6/2007

by **Pauline Pua**

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PUTRAJAYA:** The government is studying the possibility of enacting legislation to empower the Chief Government Security Office to conduct searches and investigations and review issues to protect government assets, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said yesterday.

In his keynote address at a Security Protection Convention, he said the proposed Security Service Act (SSA) will give enforcement power to the Chief Government Security Office under the Prime Minister's Department.

"To allow efficient implementation, the Chief Government Security Office should have the legislation power," he said.

"By having the Act, we hope the civil servants or any parties concerned will implement the protection measures to protect government assets and secrecy of information."

At a press conference later, Dompok said the proposed Act was needed in view of the increasing security threat locally and internationally. He did not elaborate.

A Keypoints Command Centre will be set up in Putrajaya as a coordination centre to determine the security measures at some 300 keypoints in the country.

Keypoints are facilities or systems such as airports, telecommunication system and electrical system that might jeopardise the economy, defence, security and function of a government should it be attacked.

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Chief Government Security Officer Johari Jamaluddin said the proposed centre will incorporate information communication technology, which involves a Keypoint Management System to collect profiles and geographical data.

He said the security office was working with experts from Cyber Security Malaysia (the national agency to monitor Malaysia cyberspace security) to enhance the system.

The information obtained by the centre will help in early preparation should there be any emergency at the keypoints.

Johari said the proposal will be submitted to the cabinet for approval soon.

On another matter, Dompok said he did not recommend anyone to replace him as the new head of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Integrity.

He said the person will be determined by the committee itself.

Dompok resigned as head of the committee last month because he felt he could not do justice to the post assigned to him.