

BORDER AGENCY BEGINS WORK

Law governing
Malaysia
Checkpoints and
Border Agency will
be tabled in July

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THE management and control of the nation's borders are now under the authority of one agency, the Malaysia Checkpoints and Border Agency (MCBA).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the MCBA began work on Wednesday, but the law governing the agency would only be tabled in Parliament in July.

"The MCBA will have the powers of the police, Customs Department and the Immigration Department. Therefore, all departments and ministries must accept this instruction," he said in his speech at the Home Ministry's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration here yesterday.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim arriving at the Home Ministry's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (back row, second from right). **BERNAMA PIC**

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the MCBA would ensure smooth and secure control of Malaysia's borders.

"Border security has to be maintained and all leakages and smuggling must be stopped. This is a big task for MCBA director-general Datuk Seri Hazani Ghazali and MCBA. I believe they can carry out their duties well."

Saifuddin said setting up the MCBA was the first step towards assuring border security.

"I believe several game-changing announcements will soon be made to make it easier for tourists so that there will no longer be congestion (at our country's borders)."

Earlier, Anwar witnessed the handover of terms of reference between the Home Ministry and partners under the MCBA.

The documents were signed by the Home Ministry secretary-general, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief commis-

FACT FILE ON THE MALAYSIA CHECKPOINTS AND BORDER AGENCY (MCBA)

MCBA is a government agency that acts as the frontline authority for the country's entry points. It is responsible for providing integrated and comprehensive control and inspection services for the movement of people, vehicles and goods, including animals and plants, at land, air and sea entry points and borders.

Operations will undergo three phases of implementation. Phase One runs from January to June 2024, involving nine entry points:

1. Sultan Iskandar Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex, Johor
2. Sultan Abu Bakar Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex, Johor
3. Bukit Kayu Hitam Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security Complex, Kedah
4. Rantau Panjang Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security Complex, Kelantan
5. Kuala Lumpur International Airport Terminal 1
6. Kuala Lumpur International Airport Terminal 2
7. Bayan Lepas International Airport, Penang
8. Kota Kinabalu International Airport, Sabah
9. Kuching International Airport, Sarawak

Oct 18, 2023

■ Cabinet approves establishment of MCBA

Dec 29, 2023

■ Public Service Department approves job applications

Jan 5, 2024

■ Treasury Department issues warrants for MCBA

Jan 1, 2024

■ Federal police Internal Security and Public Order director Datuk Seri Hazani Ghazali is appointed MCBA's first director-general

May 1, 2024

■ MCBA begins work, but the legislation governing the agency will only be tabled in Parliament in July

sioner, Treasury secretary-general and secretaries-general of the Defence, Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Transport, Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability ministries.

The Sabah and Sarawak state secretaries will also sign the documents.

The Home Ministry said the cabinet had agreed to establish the MCBA on April 17.

Agencies involved in the MCBA include the police, Customs Department, Immigration Department, Health Ministry, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and Road Transport Department.