

Hisham sets year-end deadline to end 6P delays

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PUTRAJAYA, Dec 12 — Home Ministry officials have until the end of the year to resolve the current hold-up in the legalisation phase of Putrajaya's "6P" programme, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said today.

"I have given them until year end to make sure any bottlenecks, if there is (any) as far as the legislation process is concerned, will have to be cleared up," Hishammuddin told reporters today following a meeting with five foreign embassies here.

The "6P" exercise was designed to help the government identify the number of illegal immigrants in Malaysia.

The steps involved include registration, legalisation, amnesty, monitoring, enforcement, and deportation. The registration phase was concluded in October.

Hishammuddin today said the delays may be due to policy issues with ministries other than his own, adding that a Cabinet meeting was necessary to resolve these.

"Not a full Cabinet meeting but the (deputy prime minister) with the key ministers who are involved in sectors which needs foreign workers are going to meet," he explained.

Hishammuddin added that although the programme "is not easy... we've decided it has to be done because, in the future, it will affect the whole fabric of Malaysian society".

The 6P programme earlier ran into controversy when Wanita PKR chief Zuraida Kamaruddin claimed that illegal immigrants registered under programme have been made to swear an oath that they and their families will vote for Barisan Nasional (BN) come polling day.

The Home Ministry has denied Zuraida's allegation and lodged a police report her, and threatened legal action for the claim.

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