

Greater number of illegal workers a security threat, says Hisham
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By Lisa J. Ariffin

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 21 — The ongoing biometric registration (6P) programme has revealed there are more illegals than legal foreign workers in the country, which could undermine national security, says Home Minister Datuk Sri Hishammudin Hussein.

The latest figures from the recently implemented 6P programme showed a total of 2,088,358 foreign workers had been registered, of whom more than half — 1,135,499 — were illegals.

“The presence of more illegal workers compared to the legal ones is a concern.

“But we will be able to effectively deal with this through the 6P programme,” Hishammuddin (right) was quoted as saying by The Sunday Star today.

He said comprehensive data collected via the programme would make it easier for the police and Immigration Department to investigate cases related to militant activities or human trafficking.

He pointed out that the government should not be blamed if foreign workers did not register, given the lack of a deadline, and are later deported.

The programme, was codenamed “6P” — pendaftaran (registration), pemutihan (legalisation), pengampunan (amnesty), pemantauan (observation), penguatkuasaan (enforcement) and pengusiran (deportation).

The 6P programme is aimed at gathering data on illegal immigrants, such as their place of work, employer and salary in the attempt to overcome social and crime issues often linked to these people.

Those not required for the local economy will be allowed to return to their home country without being prosecuted.

Putrajaya has been trying to limit the number of migrant workers in the country but recently lifted its moratorium on sectors such as oil palm.

However, it is also under pressure to control the number of foreigners — who are blamed by locals for social problems and crime — in the country.

The biometric registration programme for legal foreign workers started on July 13 and will carry on indefinitely while the registration for illegals began on August 1 with the two-week dateline extended until August 31.

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