

**Hishammuddin: APSS To Be Implemented When 6P Programme Stabilises**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- The Advanced Passenger Screening System (APSS) will be implemented to combat cross-border crime when the 6P Programme has stabilised.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the 6P Programme was into the second phase which was legalisation, after completing registration, under phase one.

"We have four more. Maybe, in the context of enforcement we can start looking at screening. APSS will enable the authorities to screen visitors, even before they enter the country," he said at the Parliament Lobby, here.

He said the implementation of the APSS would enable the authorities to check the background of each visitor and get information from the country of origin.

Meanwhile, on the Malaysia-Australia agreement on the placement of asylum seekers and refugees, Hishammuddin said it would succeed based on the commitment, courage and innovative and creative approach of the two countries.

"This means that the suggestion of Malaysia was something out of the box. If accepted there is no reason why it could not be used as an example to issues which I regard as international, in the globalised world today," he said.

Earlier, during the question and answer session, Hishammuddin said Malaysia's decision to sign the Delivery and placement Rules On Asylum Seekers and Refugees with Australia on July 25 did not tarnish the national image.

He said this was because the documents were consistent and supported the framework of regional cooperation which was agreed upon during the Fourth Ministerial Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on March 30.

He was answering to a question by Nancy Shukri (BN-Batang Sadong), together with five other questions, in connection with the implication on Malaysia's image after Australia was said to have declared the agreement as void.

He said Malaysia's status as a non-member of the United Nations Convention on Refugees 1951 and Protocol 1967 was not a hindrance to collaborate, including eradicating migrant smuggling crimes, and other cross-border crimes.

On the allegation that the agreement was void, Hishammuddin said the Australian High Court had never decided that the agreement signed by the two countries was void or otherwise.

On the other hand, Hishammuddin said the Australian High Court on Aug 31 only issued a permanent injunction to prohibit the delivery of asylum seekers to Malaysia as agreed to by both countries under the agreement because of Malaysia's status as a non-member to any convention in connection with refugees.

In the meantime, he said Malaysia was committed to the cooperation with Australia, while

the commitment of the latter to make the agreement a success was proven through its effort to amend the Migration Act 1958.

The amendment had been tabled in the Australian Parliament and was expected to be debated at the parliament sitting from Oct 11 to 20, he said.

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