

**Sabah To Launch Massive Operation Against Illegal Immigrants**  
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KOTA KINABALU, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- An integrated operation against illegal immigrants in Sabah will be carried out soon, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman said Monday.

He said the operation would focus on areas in the east coast of the state before expanding it to other areas.

It would be coordinated by the Federal Special Task Force (for Sabah and Labuan) and involve the relevant departments and agencies, including the police and the army, Immigration Department, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), the People's Voluntary Corps (Rela), National Registration Department and the Civil Defence Department, he added.

He was responding to a question by Datuk Joniston Bangkuai (BN-Kiulu) during the question and session at the Sabah State Assembly sitting here today.

Besides the integrated operation, Musa said the Immigration Department would also carry out a state-wide operation by focusing on the manufacturing and plantation sectors.

"The purpose of the operation is to ensure employers and workers in both sectors abide by regulations," he added.

He also said that the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM), together with agencies like the Malaysian Statistics Department, the police, District Offices and the Chief Minister's Department, had conducted a census on residents in several of the floating villages.

The census was done to determine the background of the residents and also to facilitate the government in planning of their resettlement and for village restructuring programme.

Musa said that between January and July this year, the Immigration Department had conducted 252 operations and checked 4,350 people, where 2,022 of them were detained for further investigation.

Fourteen employers were also arrested for breaching provisions in the Immigration Act, he added.

He said a total of 5,130 illegal immigrants were detained for investigation by enforcement agencies in the state between January and July this year.

During the same period, a total of 8,910 illegal immigrants had been deported to their respective country of origin through the port of Sandakan, Tawau and Semporna, he added.

He said Filipinos topped the list of illegal immigrants who were deported, at 6,209 people, followed by Indonesians (1,870), China nationals (38), Vietnamese (30), Pakistani (24), Nepalese (12), Indian (three), Ukrainian (two), and one each from Germany and Brunei.

As of Aug 13, he said there were still 2,751 illegal immigrants at the temporary detention centres in Papar, Sibuga and Tawau, where 2,358 were from the Philippines and 351

Indonesians.

The illegal immigrants still at the detention centres will be deported after their travel documents are issued by their respective embassies, he added.

Musa said patrolling of the state territorial waters, covering Kudat, Kota Marudu, Pitas, Beluran, Sandakan, Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu, Kunak, Semporna and Tawau, as well as the islands, had been stepped up with the setting up of ESSCOM.

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