

**Government Considering Building New Fence Along Malaysia-Thailand Border**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 (Bernama) -- The government is considering building a new fence to replace the old one at the Malaysia-Thailand border, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim said this would replace the 129-kilometre fence which had been built along the border, involving three states - Perlis, Kedah and Kelantan.

Replying to a question from Datuk Mohd Johari Baharom (BN-Kubang Pasu), Shahidan said the government had to consider the specifications and costs involved in building the new fence.

"The Thai authorities must be informed of the construction of the border fence specifically through the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Committee which is responsible for deciding the mechanism for the construction of the fence, whether jointly or unilaterally.

"The committee held a meeting from March 9 to 11 in Bangkok. Thailand had wanted the concept of 'co-management' of the Malaysia-Thailand border. Discussions are still being held for both countries to determine whether this concept is suitable," he said.

Mohd Johari had asked if the government could build a wall to replace the existing wire fence at the Malaysia-Thailand border especially in critical areas which had been identified as smuggling points.

He also wanted to know if the government would install sophisticated scanning machines at entry points into the country so that each vehicle moving in and out of the country would be fully scanned.

Replying to a supplementary question from Mohd Johari whether the government would install closed circuit television (CCTV) at the country's borders, Shahidan said there were currently 31 CCTVs at the border covering 5.3 kilometres from Bukit Kencana to Chuping, Perlis.

In reply to a supplementary question from Siti Zailah Mohd Yusoff (PAS-Rantau Panjang), Shahidan said that at the Kelantan border, although the fence had not been built, enforcement was constantly being upgraded, including curtailing the smuggling of weapons.

On installing vehicle scanning machines at the border areas, Shahidan said scanning machines had been set up in the entry points for container lorries and heavy vehicles, but it was still being planned for private vehicles.

"The Royal Customs Department (JKDM) has been using the cargo scanning machines since

2001 and as of April 2015, there are 16 units of these scanners operating," he said.

The JKDM was continually improving and replacing the old scanning machines which were often out-of-order, as well as increasing the number and locations of the machines at the ports and Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) complexes throughout the country, he said.

"This year, the JKDM is installing two new units at Pasir Gudang and the Tanjung Kupang CIQ and two more at the North Butterworth Port Container Terminal and the Tanjung Kupang CIQ.

"The JKDM also expects to get eight units of new machines and will decide where to install them once they have arrived," he added.

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