

Malaysian Government Will Implement APSS to Curb Influx of Militants into Country - Zahid Bernama

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From D. Arul Rajoo

ULAANBAATAR (Mongolia), July 14 (Bernama) - The Malaysian government will implement the Advance Passenger Screening System (APSS) in an effort to curb the influx of militants into this country.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the APSS will allow access to complete information on foreigners, including tourists, at their place of departure and entry in "real time".

Via the APSS, data from parties such as Interpol, the Civil Aviation Department and the airlines will enable the authorities to detect false passports and travel documents.

"We are at formality stage of implementation. Three quarters of countries in the world have implemented this system. We will bring it before the National Economic Council and the Cabinet to decide the date of implementation," he told a media conference with Malaysian journalists after arrival here to attend the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet rejected a proposal by the National Security Council (MKN) to introduce visa to nationals of Middle Eastern countries who enter Malaysia.

Zahid said the decision was made as it was unfair to impose visa on travelers from the Middle East as they contribute RM2.6 billion to the country's foreign exchange.

Moreover, the Immigration Department has its own ways to curb with Daesh militant group adding the militants also come from neighbouring countries.

A total of 138 militants were detained in prisons and detention centres following police cooperation with Interpol and other intelligence agencies.

"They will be separated from other prisoners and detained in a special block in Kamunting. This is to prevent them from influencing other prisoners."

On reports that Special Branch Counter Terrorism Division principal assistant director, Datuk Ayob Khan received death threats from militants, Zahid said the government is aware of their wanted list.

"We do not take it lightly and focus on the safety of individuals. The Special Branch will continue to monitor the situation," he added.

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