

3,874 illegals detained in Ops Mega

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KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 3,874 illegal immigrants and 84 employers were detained by the Immigration Department during the Ops Mega carried out since July 1.

Immigration director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali said the illegal immigrants, detained for various offences, were among 12,279 foreign workers screened during the period.

They comprised 1,326 Bangladeshis, Indonesians (994), Myanmarese (350), Vietnamese (178), Thais (161), Filipinos (102) and other countries (763).

"Ten employers have been charged in court for employing illegals," he told a press conference on the operation here today.

The government launched a crackdown on illegal immigrants and employers after the deadline for registration of temporary Enforcement Card (E-Card), a temporary document that allows foreign workers without a valid travel document or work permit to carry on working in the country pending the approval of a permanent document or work permit, ended on June 30.

The E-Card expires on Feb 15, 2018.

The department, Mustafar said, would continue to carry out operations against illegal immigrants, as well as hunt down errant employers.

The department has also given an ample time to the employers and the illegal immigrants but many still refused to cooperate, he added. — *Bernama*

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