

More than 1,500 illegal foreigners detained following end of E-Card registration period

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Undocumented foreign workers wait to register at the immigration headquarters several hours before the registration dateline in Putrajaya, Malaysia, 30 June 2017 (issued 01 July 2017). The Malaysian Immigration Department launched a large scale operation on undocumented immigrants in the country after the passing of the deadline for registration for the Enforcement Card or E-cards on 30 June, which allows immigrants to register their presence in the country with the immigration department. (EPA)

By **FAIRUZ MOHD SHAHAR** - July 3, 2017 @ 9:12pm

PUTRAJAYA: A total of 1,509 illegal foreigners and 28 employers have been detained by the Immigration Department as of this morning, in a crackdown following the end of the registration process for the Enforcement Card (E-Card).

Registration for the E-Card ended on June 30.

Immigration director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali said a total of 5,278 people were inspected and 86 people were issued notices to give their statements.

“Out of 1,509 illegal immigrants, Bangladeshis make up the highest number with 752 people. A total of 195 Indonesians, 117 Myanmar nationals, 50 Filipinos and 45 Thais were arrested,” he said in a statement today.

The remaining 350 people were of various nationalities.

Mustafar said the breakdown comprised 1,314 men, 192 women and three children.

He said the department has also detected a new tactic to register immigrants who had been either deported or blacklisted.

“They (the immigrants) had used illegal routes to enter the country and tried to join the E-Card registration programme to get a valid work permit. However, their thumbprint scans revealed their identity and status, that they had been blacklisted.

“We foiled attempts to register unqualified immigrants, numbering 38 cases. A total of 40 immigrants and two employers were detained,” he said.

Mustafar had stressed that the June 30 deadline would not be extended and the department would launch a manhunt for illegal immigrants beginning Saturday, nationwide.

Errant employers and foreign workers who failed to apply for E-Card will face stern action under the Immigration Act.