

## Immigration department cracks whip in probe into smuggling of Bangladeshis via KLIA

Share this story

Share

Tweet

Share



Immigration department director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali during a press conference held at Putrajaya today. Pix by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor

By **FAIRUZ MOHD SHAHAR** - December 12, 2017 @ 2:39pm

PUTRAJAYA : The Immigration department has detained officers who allegedly helped Bangladeshis enter the country illegally through the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

Investigations are now on going and a task force has been formed to look into the case. A team have been sent to Dhaka in the probe where the department will also be working with the police to get to the bottom of the case.

Its director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali did not reveal details of the arrests but stressed the officers would face stern action including the possibility of being suspended or sacked if they are found guilty.

"We have arrested our officers in KLIA for allegedly allowing the foreigners, especially Bangladeshis, to be smuggled into the country through the airport. They are still being held in the immigration's headquarters in Putrajaya for further investigation.

"We have taken internal action against our people but we do not want to reveal the specific details," he said but assured the department will not compromise with officers who are involved in such activities.

"If there is evidence that they have failed to practice integrity while on duty, we will take stern action including terminating them, depending on how far they were involved in this activity," he said after attending the department's monthly assembly, here.

"I do not deny that some of our officers were involved in this unscrupulous activity. There are some bad apples, but they are not the majority."

Mustafar said he had also discussed with Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun and would share information on the issue.

He said the department has set up a taskforce to probe into the case and has flown to Dhaka on Sunday.

"The mastermind in Bangladesh must have earned a lot from this smuggling activity, so we have sent our taskforce to conduct investigation. And of course we would pay attention to the masterminds in the country.

"Therefore, we need to do thorough investigation in KLIA and collaborate with the police," he said.

Harian Metro on Thursday revealed that illegal workers from Bangladesh were smuggled into the country through KLIA on a daily basis, which was masterminded by four big syndicates operating in Dhaka.

It was believed that the syndicate could earn RM5.2 million a year by charging between RM15,000 and RM20,000 per person, and bribing the authorities such as officers from Immigration Department and Malaysian Embassy in Dhaka.

On another matter, Mustafar said the department was ready to face high traffic flow from Jan 1 next year when the application for foreign maid permits via an online system began.

On the department's rehiring programme, Mustafar said nearly 600,000 illegal immigrants had signed up for it, with 150,000 of them had completed the rehiring programme process.

He also reminded employers and foreign workers to quickly register for the programme before Dec 31 as the department will not extend the deadline.

For those who had registered for the Enforcement Card or E-Card programme, which ended on June 30, he said, they would have until Feb 15 next year to register for the rehiring programme.