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ONE-MAN SHOW

FAKE TRAVEL DOCUMENT OPERATION BUSTED

Myanmar man believed to have made RM600,000 since he started service in 2016

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THE Immigration Department busted one of the country's longest-running travel documents forgery operations, run solely by a Myanmar national living in Kuala Lumpur.

The 38-year-old suspect, only known as Rockers, who is involved in various types of travel

document forgery, was arrested in an operation in Jalan Tun Perak in the city after four months of surveillance.

He is said to have made more than RM600,000 from the illegal service he started in 2016.

Immigration director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimiee Daud said the department had launched a special operation around the Kota Raya Complex after receiving a tip-off that Rockers was about to meet a client near the area, which led to his arrest on Saturday.

"Initial investigations revealed that he is married to a local.

"He has been renting two luxury apartments in Bandar Tasik Selatan, with one used as his fake document processing lab, equipped with all the necessary electronic hardware, chemicals,



Immigration Department director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimiee Daud (second from left) showing the fake passports at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is deputy director-general (operations) Datuk Mohd Sayuthi Bakar (left). BERNAMA PIC

official rubber stamps and passports."

He said Rockers rented two separate units in the same block to deceive the authorities.

"One unit is where he stayed with his family. The other is where he does his forgery operation," said Khairul, adding that the man was an expert at producing fake travel documents, including visas and passports, international driving licences, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees cards and marriage certificates.

He said Rockers usually charged between RM100 and RM1,000 depending on the services.

"For a fake temporary visit pass, the price could range from RM300 to RM1,000 while entry and exit stamps on passports cost RM20. He charges about RM500 to make a duplicate passport and RM100 for a birth certificate.

"He could easily make between RM18,000 and RM20,000 a month by selling fake travel documents."

Khairul said the suspect's clients knew of him via word of mouth, and he communicated only via chat applications such as Viber, Telegram and WeChat.

Khairul added that the clients were mainly from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

"During the operation, we con-

fiscated a computer, nine printers, two lamination machines, engraving machine, scanner and fake visa stickers as well as counterfeit and original passports.

"A Honda car, motorcycle and RM15,300 were also seized. The special operation ended at 2.20am the next day," he said.

Khairul said Rockers was under a 14-day remand and being investigated under Section 55(D) of the Immigration Act 1959/63 for forgery.

He congratulated the intelligence and special operations division officers on the recent success, as the arrest had crippled one of the biggest forgery operations in the country.