

CONGESTION ISSUE

S'PORE MISSION TO HAVE 8 MORE OFFICERS

D-G says this will smoothen passport documentation at high commission

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Immigration Department said it will resolve the congestion at the Malaysian High Commission in Singapore.

Director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimée Daud said the department, in collaboration with the Customs Department, would station eight officers at the high commission starting next week to

smoothen the passport documentation process.

"We have five staff members there.

"Eight more officers, including from the Customs Department, will be stationed there to help them.

"Action is being taken (to resolve the congestion issue)," he said after an enforcement operation in Jalan Imbi here yesterday.

The operation was joined by Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Mohamed Said.

Khairul Dzaimée said the congestion was caused by a technical glitch and damage to one of the passport printers there.

He also attributed the problem to a sharp rise in the number of

walk-in passport applicants who did not make appointments before coming.

"We have advised them (Malaysians in Singapore) to renew their passports online, but they still chose to renew them at the high commission.

"We give priority to those who want to renew their work permits as they cannot leave (Singapore).

"Online passport applications will be processed and printed within four to five weeks."

On Friday, Khairul Dzaimée said the Immigration Department was waiting for the Singapore Foreign Ministry's approval to allow Datasonic Bhd staff members to enter the country to carry out the repair work. **Berna-**