

Immigration Dept ready for border reopening

JOHOR BARU: The Immigration Department is ready for the reopening of the country's borders, especially in receiving foreign tourists, said director-general Datuk Seri Khairul Dzaimiee Daud.

He said among the main international entry points for the purpose were the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and the Sultan Iskandar Building in Johor.

"On March 5, all auto gates were reactivated and officers at inter-

national entry points who had been sent to temporary depots during the pandemic were recalled."

He said this during a large-scale joint operation with the Johor Immigration Department on Saturday night.

He said the department expected an increase in the entry of foreign tourists and would tighten control to ensure there was no abuse of social visit passes and to prevent overstaying.

"They (tourists) must submit proof that they have a place to live in Malaysia, a sufficient amount of money and a travel itinerary," he said.

On Saturday's operation, he said Immigration Department officers raided three premises in Johor Baru, including a factory in the Senai Industrial Park, where 185 foreign workers were inspected and 64 Indian nationals registered under the Labour Recalibration Programme were

nabbed for working in an unauthorised sector.

"Government policy does not allow Indian nationals to work in factories.

"They can work only in certain sectors.

"The detained Indian national workers were registered in the programme in April 2021 and we suspect that the factory used the services of agents to register the workers," said Khairul Dzaimiee.

He said 16 workers from Nepal,

three workers from Myanmar and two workers from Bangladesh were also detained during the operation for not having valid documents.

In addition, he said, 14 Thais, one Laotian and one Myanmar national were detained in a raid on two spas that offered prostitution services.

The detainees were taken to the Immigration Department lock-up and the employers involved will be investigated. **Bernama**