

# 124 screened in raid on migrant colony

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A settlement for illegal migrants in Sentul, complete with a convenience store and other amenities, was raided by the authorities early yesterday morning.

Led by the Immigration Department, the raid also involved the police, General Operations Force, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Civil Defence Force and National Registration Department.

Enforcers began securing the perimeter at 12.30am, then entered the compound near the Duke Highway.

The illegal settlement had 20 to 30 homes, toilets, convenience stores, livestock pens and water and electricity supply. It was built on a government reserve land.

It is understood the land was occupied illegally three to four years ago and that the migrants allegedly pay RM400 a month to

the “landlord”.

The raid ended about 3am, with 124 foreign nationals checked.

Immigration director-general Datuk Ruslin Jusoh said the foreign nationals were from Myanmar, Indonesia and India.

“Of the total, 95 are from Myanmar, including 14 boys and 18 girls with their mothers. We believe a majority are Rohingya.

“There were three Indonesians and several other foreign nationals. We checked 21 Indian nationals who have valid work permits.”

He said some migrants did not have valid documents, had no passports, had expired work passes or were overstaying.

“Those without valid documents or work passes will be detained. Those with UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) cards will be referred to the UNHCR for further action.

“We will document them first tonight (yesterday) and conduct verification tomorrow (today). After that, we will determine how many will be detained based on their documents.”

Ruslin said authorities found five convenience stores at the settlement, selling items like betel leaves and subsidised goods, such as cooking oil.

“They claim to rent the place from locals. Immigration will work with City Hall and other agencies to identify who rented out this government reserve land.”

He said the Immigration Department would continue to work with other agencies to tackle the influx of illegals in the capital.

“We will also take action in other areas in collaboration with other authorities to ensure only those with valid travel and work documents remain in the country.”



*A makeshift convenience store that the authorities found during a raid on a migrant settlement in Sentul, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN*