

RUBBISH, HUMAN FAECES

71 illegal migrants detained in raid

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ILLEGAL migrants risked their lives by jumping from the fourth to the third floor of a building to evade authorities during Op KL Strike Force yesterday.

The dilapidated six-storey building had been housing illegal migrants at Changkat Bukit Bintang for years.

Rubbish was littered all over the ground floor of the building, and sewerage water was seen leaking, causing a foul stench from the building.

During the raid, which involved personnel from the Immigration Department, Kuala Lumpur City Hall and the police, *New Straits Times* reporters observed human faeces and urine along the stairwells of the Hicks Flat.

Kuala Lumpur Immigration Department director Wan Mohammed Saupee Wan Yusoff said



71 illegal migrants were detained during the operation, which began around noon.

“We conducted two weeks of surveillance following multiple complaints from the public on illegal migrants and the dirty condition of the building,” he said

A total of 30 units in the building was inspected and 150 foreigners were checked for legal documents, with 71 of them found to be illegal migrants, he said.

The detainees included 56 men, 13 women and two children from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand and Pakistan.

“During the raid, one individual resorted to jumping from his fourth floor unit to the third floor to evade our personnel.

“Another man climbed onto the roof of the building and hid above the elevator shaft,” Wan Mohammed Saupee said, adding that both men were de-

Some of the illegal migrants resorted to daring acts to avoid being caught during Op KL Strike Force in Changkat Bukit Bintang, yesterday. NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS



Some of the 71 illegal migrants detained during Op KL Strike Force in Changkat Bukit Bintang, yesterday. NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

tected and detained.

City Hall enforcement civil engineer Azmi Mohd Saaid said authorities identified 27 units with illegal partitions during the raid.

“Our teams are dismantling these illegal structures. There have been numerous complaints about the stench.

“The Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Corporation has cleaned the area several times, but the issue persists,” he said.

Ing See Lai, 80, a longtime resident of the building, expressed frustration with the lack of coordinated action from the authorities, which he said allowed the illegal migrant population

to persist.

“We’ve reported the situation several times, but every time the authorities conduct a raid, nothing changes,” Ing said.

Some units in the building were found to house as many as 20 people, with some setting up makeshift beds in kitchens.

The migrants were charged between RM300 and RM450 per room.

“We will identify those renting out these units to illegal migrants and will call them in to facilitate further investigations,” said Wan Mohammed Saupee, advising the public against sheltering or housing illegal migrants.