



## PAC: No need to replace award-winning immigration online system



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File picture shows the biometric fingerprint scanner being used for security screening at the immigration counter in Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) on May 17, 2016. — Bernama pic

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 — The Immigration Department does not need to replace its current online system (myIMMs) but needs to improve it, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said today after an inquiry into allegations the system has compromised national security.

Datuk Hasan Ariffin who chairs the bipartisan parliamentary panel said its investigations showed the system had won many awards and should be retained to improve the operational skills of the Immigration Department personnel handling it.

"As a whole, this myIMMs system is good and has already won many awards not only locally and abroad in relation to the system's achievements and implementation.

"Therefore, the PAC is of the view that the myIMMs System does not have to be replaced but improved based on the requirements from time to time. This will facilitate the officers and staff of the Immigration Department of Malaysia to be more skilled in operating the myIMMs System," he said in a statement today.

According to Hasan, the PAC had called up the Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Alwi Ibrahim, the Immigration Department of Malaysia's director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali and deputy director-general (management) Datuk Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman for an inquiry today into the myIMMs system's implementation.

In the proceedings that started at around 11am and ended around 1.30pm today, both the Home Ministry and Immigration Department had provided explanation for the issues on the myIMMs implementation which surfaced after a federal audit last year.

"The PAC is satisfied with the clarification and explanation given by KDN and JIM towards the issues raised in the Auditor-General's report 2015 Series 1. However, the PAC wants the government especially KDN and JIM to ensure that all the systems developed and used can truly be integrated comprehensively," Hasan said, referring to the ministry and the department by its Malay initials.

He also said government agency Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (Mampu) should constantly monitor and provide its suggestions from time to time to improve the myIMMs System, in order to ensure that the system is up to date and able to cope with any challenges in ensuring national security.

The myIMMs system was previously reported to have been compromised and alleged to have been sabotaged.

The first series of the Auditor-General's 2015 report had said the myIMMs system was not functioning satisfactorily and a RM10.3 million biometric system and equipment purchased to screen those entering Malaysia was not installed and not in use.