

Ministry and police assure tight watch on entry and exit points

KUCHING: The Foreign Ministry and the police have assured the public that security at the country's entry and exit points are always monitored closely.

Foreign Ministry consular division secretary Datuk Mohd Zamri Mohd Kassim has refuted allegations that these points were loose, contributing to the increase in the number of drug mule cases in the country.

"We have to see where the drugs were acquired from, not their nationality. The victims could have left the country without the drugs, and got it in their bags in a foreign country.

"It is not true that the security of our entry and exit points are loose as claimed by some people. It just happens to be that Malaysians have been being victimised," he said during a question-and-answer session at the Publicity, Information and Public Diplomacy Programme here yesterday.

Narcotics Investigation Department head Supt Moses Agat said security personnel, including from the immigration, customs and police, had updated equipment and means to detect if any contrabands were being brought into the country, either by shipping or individuals.

"We have officers monitoring all foreigners together with locals coming in and out of the country. In previous months, we have nabbed some foreigners bringing in contraband drugs to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport. We also did a major drug bust last month.

"However, if the drugs were obtained outside of the country and the drug mules were apprehended outside of the country, there is not much we, the authorities, can do," Supt Moses said.

In relation to this, Zamri advised Malaysians going abroad to contact the nearest Malaysian embassy to inform them of their presence.

"Not that we want to track your every move. We just want to make sure that in case anything happens, we would know where to look for you," said Zamri.