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KOTA BARU: A 39-year-old father can be happier now that the long wait for his three children to obtain Malaysian citizenship is finally over.
Shahabudin Md Noor, who is married to Thai Saruema Dorloh, 37, said he could finally breath a sigh of relief, knowing that his children Nor Shakimie Aidi, 16, Nurul Syafini Aida, 11, and Nor Syafi Aslah, seven, would be able to lead a normal life.

◆My concern is over now that their status as Malaysians cannot be doubted anymore,◆ he said after receiving the citizenship certificates from Deputy Home Minister Datuk Lee Chee Leong,

The children were among 14 people who received their certificates here yesterday.

The Kubang Kerian food seller, who has five children, said his eldest child Nor Shakimie was refused entry into the PMR examination hall last year because he did not have a MyKad.

◆I know how he felt when he could not join his classmates in taking the examination,◆ he said.

He added that he hoped the school would allow his son to take the PMR this year.

Another recipient, Zahrah Abd Rahman, 64, said she was grateful to receive her citizenship after living in Malaysia for almost 30 years.

Originally from Cambodia, she was married to a Malaysian, Tahir Ismail, who died 10 years ago.

◆I am grateful to the Government for considering my application,◆ said the mother of five from Jalan Bayam.

◆Now I can cast my vote rather than just watch my friends do so.◆ - Bernama</p>