MyKad inclusion of marital status causes some ripples

By AUDREY EDWARDS

PETALING JAYA: With the inclusion of marital status in the multipurpose smart card (MyKad), those hoping to have some fun on the side after marriage may face a hitch while the singles will not be able to lay claim to a partner to ward off unwanted suitors.

And while some Malaysians voiced their support for the move, others considered the issue of being single or not a personal matter.

Aviation entrepreneur Norazizah Borhan, 48, said it was inappropriate to expose one’s marital status because it might leave women open to harassment from the opposite sex.

“Some single women say they are married because men might try to take advantage of them if they knew the woman was single.

“And if you are a divorcee, you could invite unwanted attention,” said the single mother.

Newly-married Auto Bavaria motorcycle executive Rafei Yahil, on the other hand was not worried about having his marital status recorded in the MyKad.

“My wife and I carry our marriage identification cards anyway. But MyKad could pose a problem because what happens if you lose it? Other than this, it is a good thing,” he said.

Teacher Louise Yeow, 51, and mother of two said while she did not have a problem about having it noted down that she was married, it might pose a problem to those who wanted some “hanky panky after marriage.”

“I have no objections and it is no big deal other than to those who want to stray,” she said.

It was announced in Budget 2003 that effective from Jan 1, MyKad applications would be free of charge.

A person’s marital status and voting constituency would also be included in the card.

Virinchi Integrated Solutions chief executive S.N. Siva, 42, married with three children, said it was important to get feedback from the public on whether they wanted their marital status to be open.

Utama Tayar Bateri Servis owner Andy Yong, 38, said that inclusion of the marital status was a good idea as cheating spouses would be checked.

Whatever is said and done, the marital status in MyKad can only be retrieved by a card reader.