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Abdullah-Sipadan

MEEETING ON BRINGING SIPADAN-LIGITAN CASE TO WORLD COURT NEXT MONTH

By: Khairdzir Yunus

JAKARTA, 13 Dis (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia will hold a meeting early next month to decide on the procedure for referring to the World Court their overlapping claim to Sipadan and Ligitan islands.

This was agreed to by the Malaysian and Indonesian foreign ministers, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Ali Alatas, when they met after the closing ceremony of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) ministerial conference here today.

The Malaysia-Indonesia meeting will be at the level of officials and will probably take place in Kuala Lumpur, Abdullah told Malaysian journalists here.

The Malaysian delegation will be led by foreign ministry secretary-general Datuk Kadir Mohamad, he said.

This will be the first meeting on setting the procedure for taking the overlapping claim to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as agreed to recently by President Suharto and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah said he informed Ali of the procedure agreed to by Malaysia and Singapore with regard to their decision to seek a settlement to their overlapping claim to Batu Putih island at the ICJ.

Asked when the Sipadan-Ligitan claim will be referred to the ICJ, Abdullah said it is not known yet as even the meeting on the claim has yet to take place.

"The earlier it is settled, the better it is," he said.

--BERNAMA

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