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MALAYSIA, INDONESIA SIGN SPECIAL AGREEMENT ON SIPADAN-LIGITAN

KUALA LUMPUR, May 31 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia today signed a special agreement to refer their respective claims over the islands of Sipadan and Ligitan off Sabah to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas signed the agreement before they joined their other counterparts for the Asean Foreign Ministers' Special Meeting here.

Malaysia and Indonesia had agreed on a memorandum relating to the procedures to submit their claims to the ICJ at The Hague, Netherlands to set the final stage on the 27-year-old issue .

In October last year, the two countries decided to refer to the ICJ after they failed to reach an agreement on the disputed islands.

The decision was reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesia's President Suharto during his visit here.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would accept whatever the ICJ's decision even if it was in favour of Indonesia. -- BERNAMA

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