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Myanmar to send back illegal workers

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MYANMAR has agreed to repatriate their illegal foreign workers in Malaysia once their citizenship is ascertained, said Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Abdullah said this was relayed to him by Myanmar deputy Prime Minister Maung Maung Khin during an unofficial visit to Malaysia on Tuesday.

He was speaking to reporters after witnessing the signing ceremony between Mega Meisa Sdn Bhd and Kazakhstan Government for a US\$1.3 billion (US41 = RM2.49) power plant project in the republic.

Noting the importance of ascertaining if the illegal immigrants are Myanmar citizens, Abdullah nevertheless said it will be difficult as the relevant documents for most foreign workers have already been destroyed.

However, he added that it is a matter for the relevant authorities to consider.

Abdullah was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement urging the Myanmar Government to assist Malaysia to take their illegal foreign workers numbering some 8,000 back to Myanmar.

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