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Tajol-Illegals

SPEEDY REPATRIATION FOR ILLEGALS

MELAKA, March 8 (Bernama) -- Migrant workers landing illegally on Malaysian shores will be speedily repatriated to cut down on expenditure incurred in holding them in transit camps.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said today a directive to this effect had been issued by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We don't have to have more places to hold them as the daily cost of keeping an illegal in the holding camp is more than RM10," he said after attending the Permatang Punggur Umno branch meeting in the Kota Melaka Division as the representative of the Umno Supreme Council.

Tajol Rosli said the RM10 covered food, drinks, accommodation and other facilities and if the person was to be held for three months, for instance, just imagine the cost to Malaysia.

Asked how fast could be the deportation, he said, "If possible in just two weeks."

He said that previously the cost of deporting Indonesian illegal migrant workers was shared with Indonesia but now it was difficult to ask them because they were badly affected by the economic crisis.

"It cost RM208 to send back one illegal Indonesian migrant worker and the cost was shared but it is difficult to share now," he said.

To deport a Bangladesh illegal migrant worker it would cost more -- RM720.

"The Government will enlist the help of those with transportation facilities to send back the illegal migrant workers," he added.

Tajol Rosli said the deportation process had to be speeded up in view of the large number of illegals landing on Malaysian shores recently.

A total of 5,000 illegals were deported in January and 3,500 last month, he said.

On the arrest of Malaysians under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for bringing in or harbouring illegal migrant workers, Tajol said this was because their activities were prejudicial to national security. -- BERNAMA

NO MAI AAM