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MALAYSIAN, INDON IMMIGRATION TO DISCUSS SHARING COST

LANGKAWI, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian and Indonesian Immigration will discuss details on the sharing of costs for the repatriation of Indonesian illegal immigrants from Malaysia.

Malaysian Immigration Director-General Datuk Aseh Che Mat said this was the practice two years ago when Indonesia would send its navy ships to take back their nationals however this was discontinued after that with Malaysia bearing the full cost.

"I am happy with the Indonesian President's assurance on this (shared cost), as two years ago that was the practice," he told reporters here. He was among the dignitaries who saw off the Indonesian President at the Langakwi Airport. The President left for home today after a two-day visit to this resort during which he held talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Aseh said Malaysia since then wholly financed their departures or made use of the money found on the illegal immigrant to purchase his passage home.

He said the cost depended on their destination in Indonesia for instance the trip from Melaka to Dumai, Sumatra was RM35 one way.

In the last two years, a total of 65,000 illegal immigrants had been sent home.

-- BERNAMA

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