

Syed Hamid: Punishment for illegals nothing new

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KOTA TINGGI: Punishment, including caning, for illegal immigrants is nothing new and foreigners ought to respect Malaysian laws, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

He said each government had its own way of tackling illegal immigration and punishment was based on the severity of the offence committed.

He added that the topic of illegal immigrants would no doubt be discussed between

D&K Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who will be making an official visit here starting tomorrow.

On Tuesday, the Cabinet Committee on Illegal Immigrants proposed that illegals be caned under amendments to the Immigration Act.

The committee also proposed amendments on the offence for employing an illegal to transfer the burden of proof to the defendant.

Syed Hamid was speaking to reporters at the wedding reception of his son Syed Sadiq Obaidi Albar and Natasha Datuk Abdul Karim at his residence here yesterday.

Among the dignitaries present were the Tengku Mahkota of Johor and Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

Syed Hamid said Megawati's visit would enhance existing relationship and allow both leaders to share views on the region.