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Megawati-Indons

GET VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, MEGAWATI ADVISES INDON ILLEGALS IN M'SIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Visiting Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri today asked Indonesians who have entered Malaysia illegally to obtain valid travel documents.

"I would like to urge Indonesians (in Malaysia) who have no passports and visas to get them immediately," she said when addressing the Indonesian community at the Indonesian Embassy.

About 1,000 Indonesians including students and factory workers attended the hour-long meeting held in conjunction with Megawati's two-day visit to Malaysia beginning yesterday. She leaves for home this afternoon.

Present were her husband Taufiq Kiemas, Foreign Minister Noer Hassan Wirajuda and Indonesia's Ambassador to Malaysia Drs Hadi Wayarabi Al Hadar.

The issue of illegal Indonesian workers in Malaysia was discussed during the meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Megawati yesterday.

Malaysia wants Indonesian workers to enter the country legally so that they could be protected and prevented from being exploited by certain groups.

Megawati said there were more than 1.5 million Indonesians in Malaysia.

Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indonesian Embassy Warmas Hassan Saputra said there were about 550,000 Indonesians who had entered Malaysia legally.

Megawati also urged the Indonesian Embassy to play a proactive role in view of the increasing number of Indonesians coming to Malaysia.

"Illegal immigrants sneaking into Malaysia are a problem to the Indonesian authorities and we have to take care of our community in Malaysia," she said.

She also wants Indonesian embassies in Asean-member countries to be restructured with a view to abolish unnecessary posts while enhancing important positions.

She said the embassy must be regarded as a "second house" to Indonesians living overseas.

"But some embassies have become exclusive places, our people are barred from coming, if they come, they're asked to go back," she said, reminding Indonesians to follow procedures when coming to the embassy.

-- BERNAMA

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