Syed Hamid to clear air over immigration policy

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SEPANG, Sat. — Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar hopes to quell criticisms levelled at Malaysia over its recent immigration policy by certain quarters in Indonesia during his meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Hassan Wirayuda in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

"The meeting will see the participation of heads of various agencies from both countries and it will be a good platform to clear the air.

"Recently, many quarters in Indonesia had strongly criticised Malaysia's actions in cracking down on Indonesian workers who had resorted to crime in the country," he said, adding that these critics did not appreciate the full facts.

Syed Hamid was speaking to reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport on arrival from London where he attended a Commonwealth committee meeting.

He had also visited Antarctica where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was visiting.

The Minister said although the Government's actions were just and necessary in protecting the security of the country, there was a need to clarify Malaysia's position to the relevant agencies in Indonesia.

He said bilateral relations between the two countries had always been good and Malaysia valued Indonesia's close co-operation and friendship.