

# Ex-congressman leads team for talks

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Philippine presidential adviser Nur Jaafar will head a mission to Kuala Lumpur today to discuss the deportation of Filipino illegal immigrants.

Philippine ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes confirmed yesterday the former congressman would lead the delegation, which would include several government officials.

"Besides going to Kuala Lumpur, the mission will go to Kota Kinabalu

and Sandakan," he told Bernama.

Most of the Filipino illegal immigrants are being held at detention centres in Menggatal, Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan.

On whether the delegation would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad or his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also the home minister, Brillantes said the mission's itinerary has not been finalised.

On Saturday, Mahathir said the government had decided to temporarily stop deporting Filipinos following a request from Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The request followed a public outcry in her country over alleged mistreatment of the detained illegals.

Mahathir said the reports of mistreatment were untrue and officials from the republic could come and investigate.