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Dr M, Megawati to discuss workers' issues

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The recruitment of Indonesian workers and the repatriation of those who were here illegally will be among the issues Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will discuss with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri during his two-day working visit to Bali beginning tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hamid Albar today said that investment opportunities and border disputes would also be raised.

He said this before chairing a public lecture on Central Asia in a Contemporary International Relations: The Strategic Perspective from Kyrgyzstan by visiting Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev at a hotel here.

Syed Hamid said several memorandums of understanding would be signed by the two countries.

Among them will be co-operation in women and family development, repatriation of illegals, co-operation between the two countries' immigration departments, the formation of Malaysia-Indonesia and Indonesia-Malaysia relationship boards and the formation of Malaysia-Indonesia Trade Council.

Dr Mahathir and Megawati are expected to jointly officiate at a ceremony on the supply of gas by Pertamina Gas Indonesia to Malaysia. The project is a joint venture between Petronas and Pertamina.

Dr Mahathir's visit to Indonesia is an annual discussion between the leaders of the countries aimed at renewing and consolidating bilateral ties.

Among those accompanying Dr Mahathir are Syed Hamid, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik; Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, and Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.