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Indonesia could do more to help its citizens

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MALAYSIA has been made out to be a villain for its efforts to deal with illegal immigrants. That Malaysia is only carrying out an exercise to rid the country of illegals by imposing jail sentences and whipping should not be cause for Indonesia and the Philippines to abuse us.

The Speaker of Indonesia's Consultative Assembly, Amien Rais was very unfair when he said the whipping sentence was inhumane.

The Jakarta Post in a report said Japanese investors were starting to shun Indonesia because of higher labour and energy costs plus other disincentives. If Amien Rais really has the welfare of his people at heart, then he and his colleagues should work harder to attract foreign investors.

Bear in mind that it is not Malaysia's duty to feed and clothe Indonesians. Having said that, it might be interesting to know that in one remote village on the island of Java, every household had at one time or another at least one relative who was gainfully employed in Malaysia, sending home a minimum of two million rupiahs a month.

And as a mark of gratitude the villagers have named a street as Jalan Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

What else can the Malaysian Government do, unless of course, Amien Rais can offer a better solution to this problem of illegal immigrants heading for our shores?