

28 AUG 2003

Megawati-Smuggling

INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA TO ENHANCE COOPERATION TO CURB SMUGGLING

KUCHING, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri said today that Indonesia and Malaysia will enhance cooperation to curb smuggling along their common border.

She said that such activities included the smuggling of people, weapons and timber.

"That is why we wish to resolve border problems between Indonesia and neighbouring countries including Malaysia to help reduce the incidence of smuggling," she told a media conference after her annual consultations with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Malaysia's delegation included Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Kheng Yaik.

Minister of Coordination for Politics and Security Susilo Bambang Yudihoyono, Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda and Manpower Minister Jacob Nuwawea were among members of the Indonesian delegation.

President Megawati also said that both countries had agreed that workers dispatched to Malaysia from Indonesia would only be through appointed labour agencies.

"In this way, workers can easily be traced, and ensure that only the good ones are sent to Malaysia," she said.

The President said that both countries also agreed to enhance cooperation in the security aspects including in the exchange of information on security matters.

"As you all know, Indonesia has been tackling the armed separatist movement in Aceh since the last three months and cooperation is needed in this matter," she said.

In terms of security, she said, Indonesia does not only require cooperation from Malaysia but also other neighbouring countries.

President Megawati also said that in dealing with piracy, rampant in the waters off both countries, they agreed that more concrete measures must be implemented.

In tackling the haze problem, she said that Indonesia was now using the satellite to detect forest and peat fires in Kalimantan.

"Kalimantan is mostly peatlands, prone to fires, so we are using the satellite to detect what could spark such fires to overcome the situation," she said.

The President said that she was most grateful to Malaysia which had speedily provided assistance in dealing with the forest fires in Kalimantan some years ago.

President Megawati also called for the volume of trade between Malaysia and Indonesia be increased.

"I believe there is still much potential for a more concrete trade cooperation," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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