

Dr M's way to tackle problem of illegals

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JAKARTA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia should move industries to Indonesia to reduce problems with illegal Indonesian migrant workers.

"It would be better for Malaysia to relocate some of its labour-intensive businesses to Indonesia," Dr Mahathir said here yesterday after meeting

with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

He said transferring operations to Indonesia would help Malaysia curb the influx of illegal migrants from its southern neighbour.

Last week, Malaysia extended until the end of the month the deadline for illegal migrants to return home. It had earlier

given them until mid-November to leave, but few took advantage of the amnesty.

Malaysia estimates it has at least 1.2 million illegal immigrant workers, mainly from Indonesia and the Philippines.

Dr Mahathir said most of the discussion with Susilo centred on Indonesia's recent general election. — AFP