

# 'Relocate industries to Indonesia'

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JAKARTA, Mon. — Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia should move industries to Indonesia to reduce problems with illegal Indonesian migrant workers there.

"It would be better for Malaysia to relocate some of its labour-intensive businesses to Indonesia," Dr Mahathir told reporters here after meeting with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

He said moving operations here would help Malaysia curb the influx of illegal immigrants, who would be able to find work at home instead.

Malaysia last week extended to the end of December the deadline for illegal immigrants to return home.

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

Since stepping down in Oc-



**LET'S WORK TOGETHER:** Dr Mahathir and Susilo at the state palace in Jakarta yesterday. — AFP picture

tober 2003 after 22 years as Malaysia's leader, Dr Mahathir has taken on the role of elder statesman.

He said most of the discussion with Susilo centred on the recent general elections here, which he de-

scribed as peaceful and smooth.

He said Indonesia and Malaysia should work together to tackle Islamic extremism. "The world sees Indonesia and Malaysia as moderate Islamic nations." — AFP/AP