

Malaysia Committed To Working With Affected Countries In Resolving Illegal Immigrants
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysia remains committed to work closely with affected countries, including Myanmar, Bangladesh and members of the international community in resolving the issue of illegal immigrants, as well as human trafficking in the region.

The foreign ministry said Malaysia was concerned over the recent influx of illegal immigrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh into Malaysia.

It added that the government would hold a meeting with the relevant countries, including Thailand and Indonesia.

"Recognising the multifaceted and complex nature of the issue of people smuggling, Malaysia will continue to seek a solution on this issue through inter alia, concerted and coordinated efforts among the countries of origin, transit and destination.

"On this regard, Malaysia will pursue this matter at the relevant fora," the ministry said in a statement today.

Last Sunday, 1,158 Bangladesh nationals and the Rohingya community in Myanmar arrived by boat in Langkawi. It was reported that between 5,000 and 6,000 more Bangladesh nationals and Rohingya are waiting for an opportune time to set sail for Malaysia.

Furthermore, Malaysia strongly condemns people-smuggling syndicates linked to deaths, injury and inhumane condition for illegal migrants.

"Malaysia as a destination country remains seriously committed in addressing these scourges that if left unchecked, would have a negative impact on Malaysia's domestic concern," said the statement.

On human trafficking, the statement said ASEAN was working towards adopting the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons and its corresponding action-oriented document.

"The document (Regional Plan of Action) would be submitted to the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime from Sept 28 to Oct 1 in Kuala Lumpur," it said.

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