

Another batch of Filipino deportees from Sabah, Malaysia arrived Friday in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

Lawyer Laisa Alamia, regional executive secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), immediately directed the region's humanitarian agency to attend to the deportees' emergency needs.

Thousands of undocumented Filipino immigrants have been deported by the Malaysian government in the past two years as part of its crackdown against illegal settlers in Sabah.

Alamia said the 127 deportees that set foot in Bongao had all been fed and examined for ailments by combined relief workers of the ARMM and the office of Tawi-Tawi Governor Nurbert Sahali.

Of these latest deportees, 90 were men and 21 were women of different ages and 16 children.

On orders of ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman, the ARMM Humanitarian Emergency Assistance Team had provided emergency kits to the deportees, including psycho-social intervention to prepare them for reintegration to the mainstream Filipino community.

Alamia said 26 of the deportees have been turned over to the department of Social Welfare and Development for more assistance on their way back to their places of origin outside the region.