



The economic boost to Indonesia of the boat people smuggling business

The Age reported on 27 May 2013 that it is estimated that there will be approximately 25,000 asylum seekers arriving into Australia during the current financial year.

It is reported in a research paper dated 28 February 2013 by the Department of Foreign Affairs Defence and Security (extracted from the aph.gov.au website) that 17,202 people arrived by boat during the 2012 calendar year.

The average price paid to board a boat in Indonesia for travel to Australia is quoted in the research paper as being between US\$1,700 and US\$3,500 with varying arrangements such as amounts being paid upon successfully arriving in Australia.

Notwithstanding the fact that a portion of the price paid would flow back to the country of origin from whence the boat people came from it is apparent that funds would be disbursed in Indonesia to pay for gratuities, boats, fuel, accommodation, food, transport and the like.

Applying an average price paid by each boat person of US\$2,600 it is estimated that the boat people business was worth approximately US\$44,725,200 to the Indonesian economy during the 2012 calendar year which equates to almost 10% of the direct aid provided by the Australian government.

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