

PRESENTATION
BY

THE HONOURABLE MOHD RADZI SHEIKH AHMAD

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION MALAYSIA

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL

COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

3. Evidence of what I have mentioned are quite well known and are contained in the report by the UN Secretary General prepared for the HLD. I therefore need not dwell on them. However, I would like to flag what are to my mind the main factors leading to the increasing complexity of the issue as well as the increasing numbers of international migrants:

3.1 First, the continuous spread of poverty and underdevelopment in many developing countries which has further widened the existing gap between the South and the North;

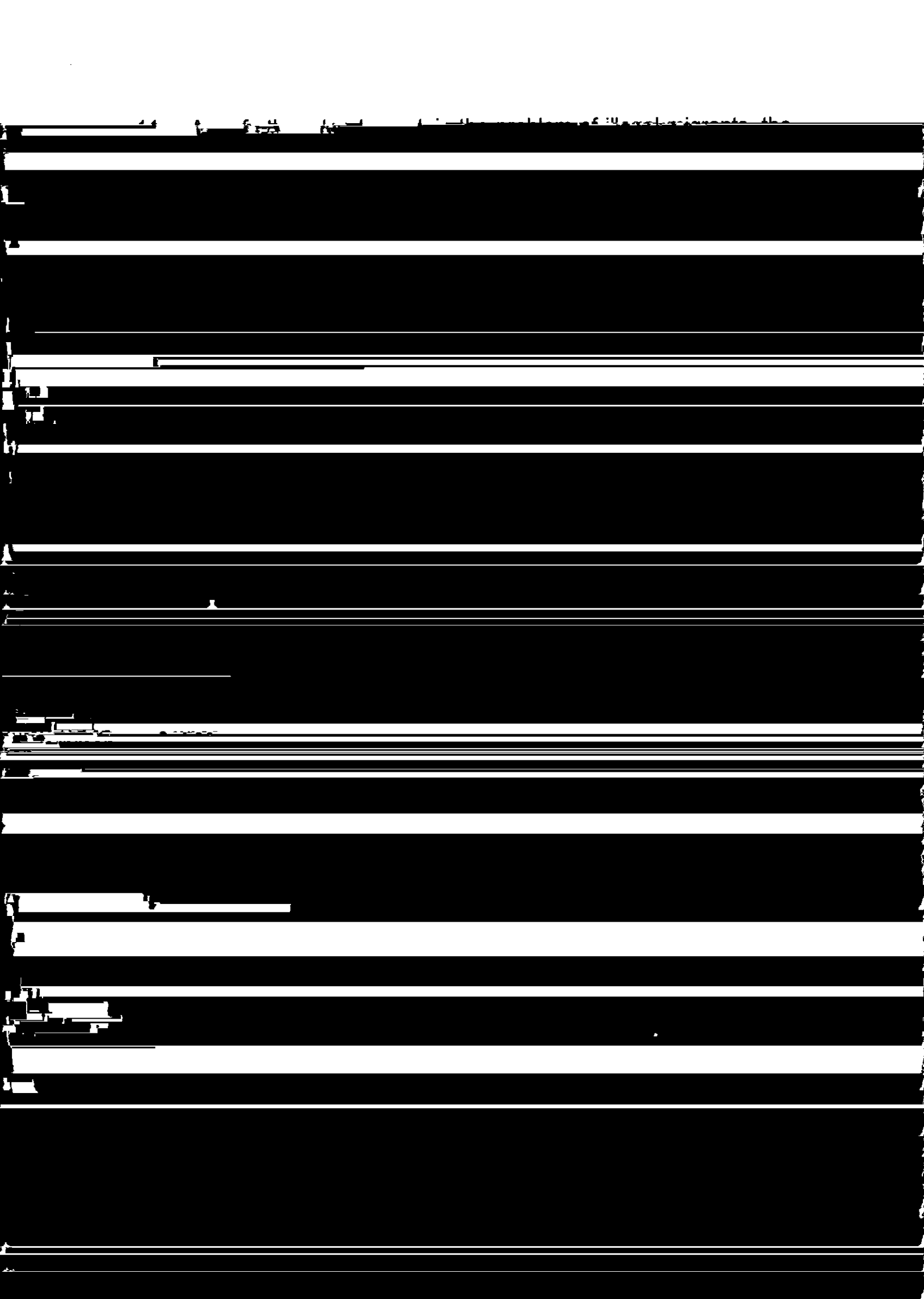
3.2 Second, increased marginalization and a host of other challenges faced by developing countries as a result of rapid globalization and the consequent economic imbalances; and

3.3 Third, demographic factors such as rapid rates of population growth in some regions, population decline in

~~the ... into some regions and out of others~~

Mr. Chairman,

5. I would now like to turn to some facts and figures related to the situation in Malaysia. As a result of rapid economic growth, Malaysia's economy has had to operate within a tight labour market. At present, Malaysia with a population of 25 million is now presently home, albeit temporary, to more than 1.8 million skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled foreign workers. As Malaysia moves towards becoming



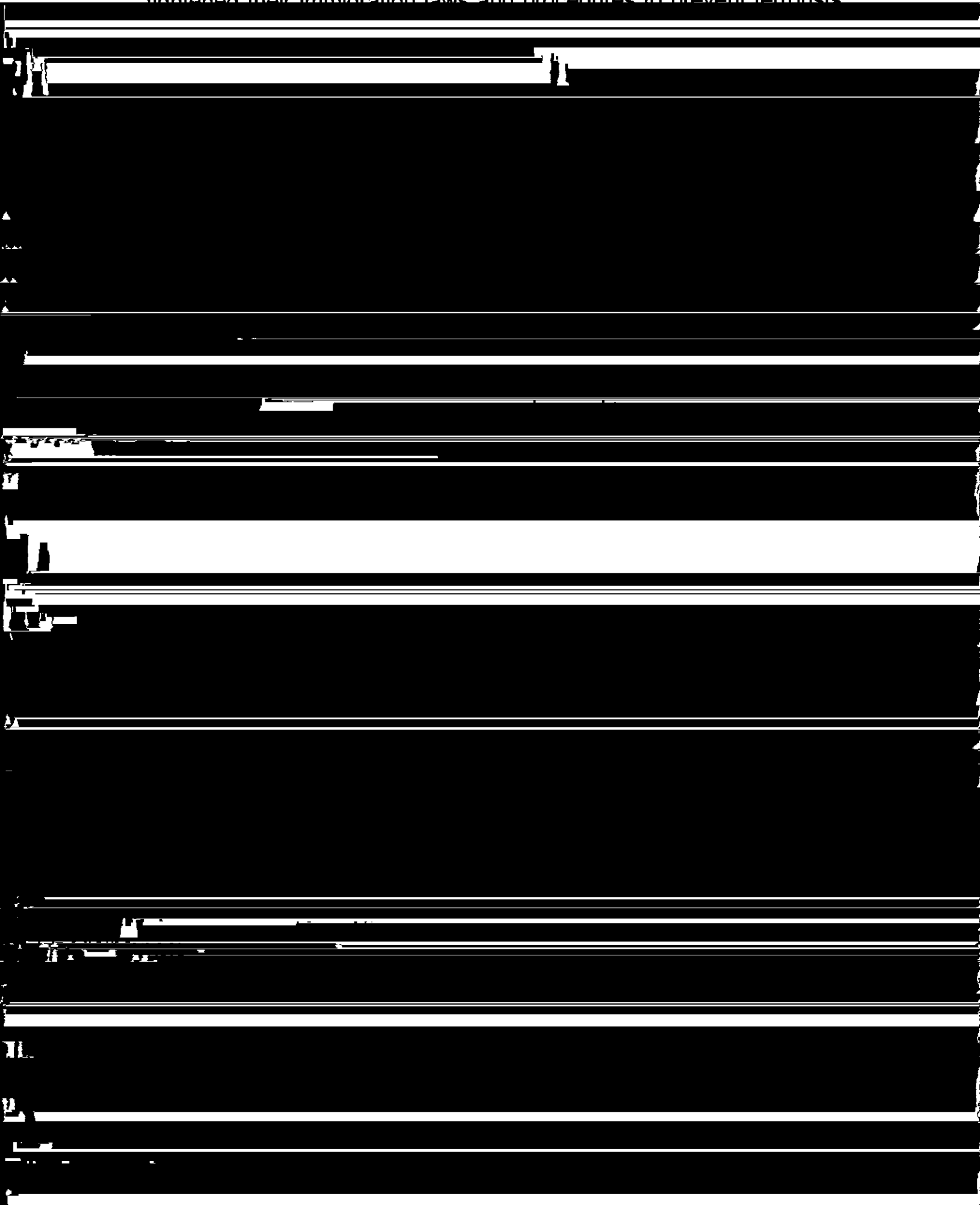
Mr. Chairman,

14. It is inevitable that large inflows of migrants would give rise to social concerns. I would therefore like to now highlight some of these concerns as well as the measures adopted to address them.

15. In the area of **public health**, there are concerns that migrant workers could be carriers of highly communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy. These were diseases that have been either eradicated or were under control until the arrival of

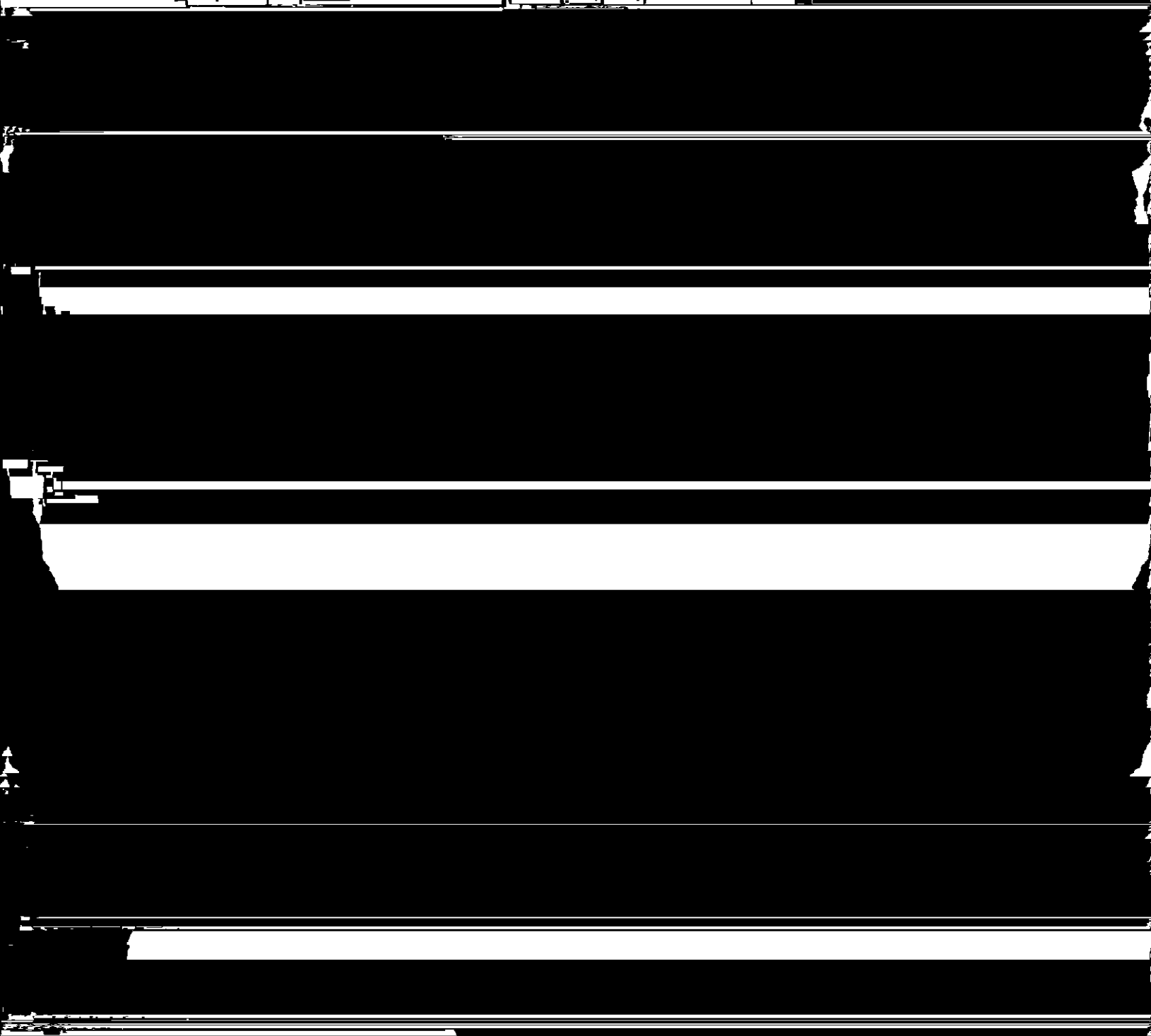
measures taken by the Malaysian

17. Since the events of September 11, many countries have tightened their immigration laws and procedures to prevent terrorists



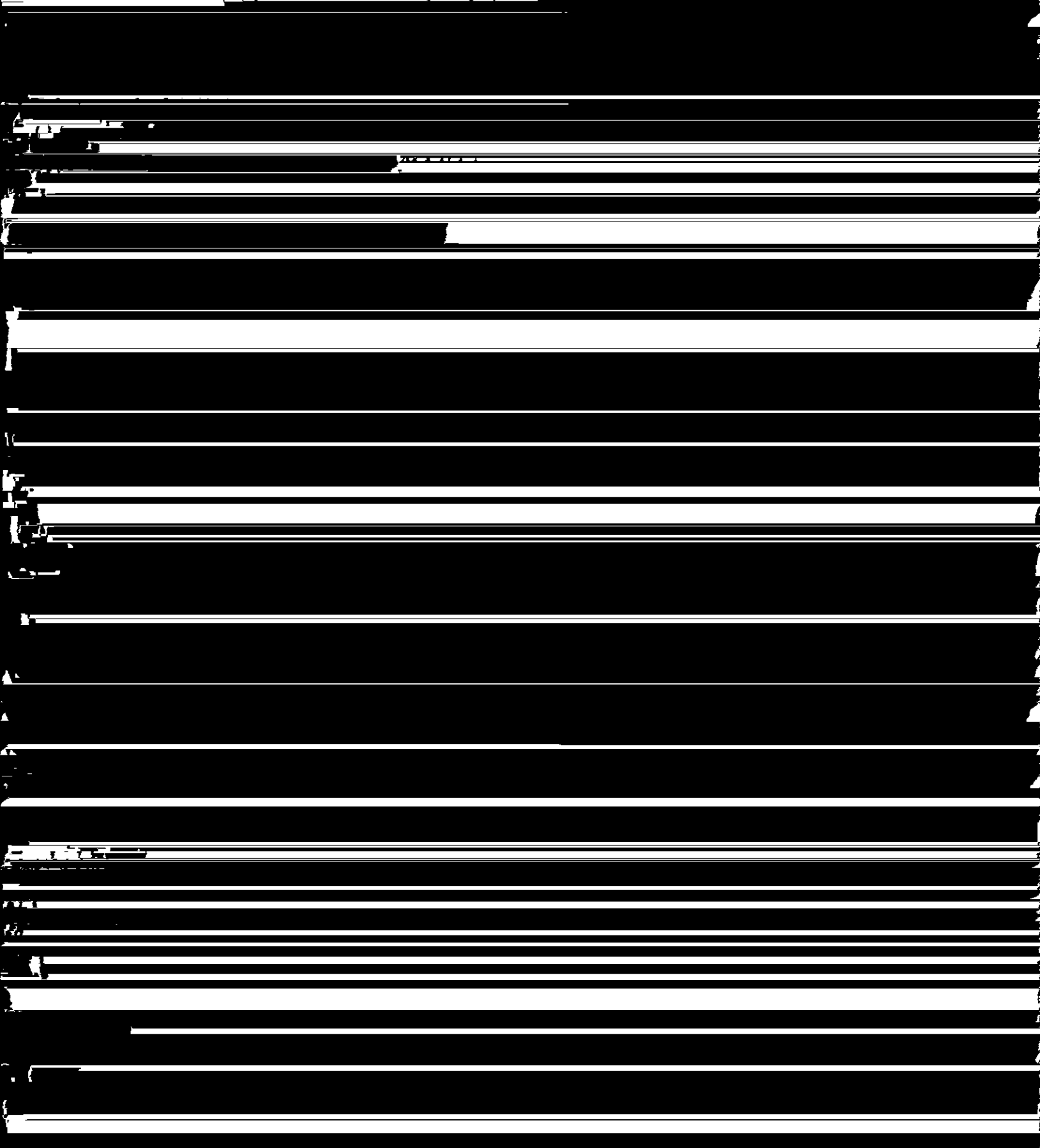
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

21. A point worth noting is that the Protocol places upon the destination country the responsibility to provide assistance and other support to victims and also for the protection of witnesses. The



22.4 Amending immigration laws to provide for stiffer penalties for illegal entries.

23. Rigid enforcement and checks at the nation's points of entry have also deterred illegal entries. As a result of these measures, in



At the regional level, there is active

the sharing of experiences and best practices. It is with this in mind

~~that Melissa will play an active and constructive role in deliberations~~