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Abdullah-Bangladesh

BANGLADESH ASKED TO ENSURE WORKERS IN MALAYSIA BEHAVE THEMSELVES

By: Khairdzir Yunus

JAKARTA, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has asked the Bangladesh government to ensure that its nationals working in Malaysia behave themselves.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi said he made the request to his counterpart from Bangladesh, Abdul Hasan Chowdhury, during a meeting here today.

The two ministers are here to attend the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) ministerial meeting.

"I told him (Chowdhury) that we don't want a situation where because of a bad incident involving Bangladeshi workers, we are forced to review the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers," Abdullah told Malaysian journalists here.

There have of late been several reports of clashes between Bangladeshi workers and local residents in a number of areas in Malaysia.

Abdullah said Malaysia understood that only a small number of the Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia were involved in the clashes.

He said Chowdhury expressed his regret over the conduct of those workers and left it to Malaysia to take whatever action against them.

The Bangladesh minister gave the assurance that his government would not oppose any action taken by the Malaysian government against Bangladeshi workers who violated the law.

Abdullah said Chowdhury also assured him that the registration of Bangladeshi workers who entered Malaysia illegally was progressing well and expressed confidence that the exercise to legalise the workers could be completed by this month as wanted by Malaysia.

He added that Chowdhury would be coming to Kuala Lumpur shortly to see for himself the progress of the registration process.

Meanwhile, Chowdhury informed Abdullah that Bangladesh's Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia wished to visit Malaysia to hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Chowdhury also informed Abdullah that Malaysia has replaced Japan as the top investor in Bangladesh. -- BERNAMA

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