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GOVT URGED TO FREEZE INTAKE OF UNSKILLED WORKERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) today urged the government to freeze further intake of unskilled workers from neighbouring countries and stop work permits of existing foreign workers.

Its president, Zainal Rampak said that although there had been reports of this being implemented in stages, efforts must be taken to ensure no loopholes in the relevant regulations which the employers could take advantage of.

"The social problems cause by foreign workers have been rampant nationwide for more than a decade but are receiving active media attention only now," he said in a press statement here.

Zainal said that although the import of migrant workers might serve the immediate manpower needs of the employers, such actions should at best only be stop-gap measures to protect a long-term national interest.

In line with this, MTUC supports the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's stand to reduce the dependency on foreign workers.

He said employers should pay our local workers competitive wages and provide them adequate benefits in order to retain them. -- BERNAMA

WE ABG