

09 DEC 1996

Kyrgyzstan-Labour

KYRGYZSTAN SEEKS MALAYSIAN HELP TO SOLVE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 9 (Bernama) -- Kyrgyzstan has asked Malaysia to help the central Asian country ease its high unemployment problem by recruiting Kyrgyz professionals and skilled workers.

Its Deputy Minister of Labour, Aidarbek T. Kerimkulov, made the request during a meeting here today with Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Speaking to reporters through an interpreter, Kerimkulov said Kyrgyzstan is seeking Malaysia's assistance in the spirit of South-South cooperation and also in the context of cooperation among the Muslim states.

He said many professionals in Kyrgyzstan, such as scientists, doctors and engineers as well as skilled construction workers, were unemployed.

The country was a former Soviet satellite republic which became independent in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"We hope the Malaysian government could help us by opening the door to Kyrgyz professionals and skilled labour to work here," he said.

Kadir said he would convey the Kyrgyz request to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is the chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers.

He said Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan have a general agreement on cooperation which was signed when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited the country in July this year.

Kadir also said a national campaign to encourage savings would be launched next year, starting with school children in January and the workers in March. -- BERNAMA

AKT CTL