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Workers-Bangladesh

DON'T CAST SHADOWS ON ALL BANGLADESHI WORKERS, SAYS ABUL HASAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- The misbehaviour of some Bangladeshi workers should not be used to cast shadows on the conduct of all of them in Malaysia, Bangladeshi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said today.

"When you have a very large population, there may well be one or two people whose behaviour may have been offensive...but for that, no shadows should be cast on the entire (Bangladeshi) workforce population (here)," he said.

He said this to reporters after attending a luncheon talk on trade and investment opportunities in Bangladesh organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia.

Abul Hasan said the vast majority of Bangladeshi workers in this country are hardworking, meticulous and generally happy to be here.

"If one has not been up to the standards, that really should not cast a blight on the larger majority of them who are contributing to the economy of this country and this is exactly the spirit in which we would like to proceed," he said.

Abul Hasan's four-day visit from Monday has coincided with mounting local criticisms directed at Bangladeshi workers who are blamed for creating various social problems.

He was also asked whether any special meeting would be held with the Malaysian government to iron out the issue.

"Absolutely not. We look at our relationship in its entirety and we have very good relations with Malaysia and I believe that this friendship will become deeper," he said.

Asked what were the problems brought up to him by Bangladeshi workers here, he said: "My purpose here is to try and ease if there are any irritants. I don't think it will serve (the purpose) at all for me to go into details."

Commenting on his meetings with various Malaysian government leaders yesterday, Abul Hasan said they discussed a wide range of issues including the strengthening of economic relations and Bangladeshi workers.

"I'm very grateful to them because their assessment of the (Bangladeshi workers) situation totally concurs with ours," he added.

Yesterday, he had talks with International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob, Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad and Deputy Human Resource Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Abul Hasan also said Bangladesh is following Malaysia's development keenly and that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is a household name in his country as he conjures up visions of progress and prosperity. -- BERNAMA

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