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Extension for foreign restaurant help sought

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The MIC will submit a report to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad seeking a temporary extension for foreign workers employed by Indian restaurants to renew their work permits.

Its president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said a working paper on the matter would also be submitted to the Cabinet by the end of next month.

He said this when speaking to reporters after opening the Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association annual general meeting last night.

In a move to reduce the country's dependence on foreign labour and to provide employment to locals, the Government has decided not to renew the work permits of more than 700,000 foreign workers in the service and construction sectors. Instead, they will be given an option to work in the plantation and manufacturing sectors or face repatriation.

This ruling involves workers whose permits expire on or before Aug 15 this year.

Samy Vellu said there were some 8,000 Indian restaurants employing about 45,000 foreign workers.

He added that the extension would give the restaurant owners some time to train locals.

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