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Tajol-Foreigners

GOVT OKAYS 120,000 FOREIGNERS' INTAKE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- The government has allowed the intake of 120,000 additional foreign workers to meet the manpower shortage in the plantation, manufacturing and construction sectors, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said today.

He said the approval was given last week by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister, when he chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers.

The foreigners would be recruited from Indonesia and Thailand, he told reporters after attending the Deepavali "open house" of Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu at Chung Hwa High School, here.

He said 100,000 of the foreigners would be employed in Peninsular Malaysia while 20,000 would be sent to Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir said in Tokyo yesterday that job opportunities in the various sectors would increase next year following signs of economic recovery.

Tajol Rosli advised Malaysians particularly graduates not to be job-choosy as there were ample jobs as evident from the government's move to bring in additional foreign labour.

He also advised the foreign workers not to involve in unlawful activities such as in illegal assemblies and demonstrations.

"If they are found to be ungrateful to our good gesture, maybe we will change our policy to recruit foreigners from elsewhere," he said.

Asked on the possibility of foreigners involved in the illegal assemblies organised by supporters of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he said those involved would be deported.

-- BERNAMA

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