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Indonesia-Labour

ONLY SKILLED INDON WORKERS FOR MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, June 23 (Bernama) -- Indonesia will in future only send skilled and semi-skilled workers to Malaysia to work in sectors such as the construction industry, its Manpower Minister Fahmi Idris said today.

He said the training system at the country's 155 vocational training centres would be revised and they would provide the necessary training to Indonesians wishing to work in Malaysia.

"Indonesia does not wish to send housemaids or other unskilled workers to Malaysia anymore," he told reporters after calling on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir at his office here. Also present was Indonesia's Minister of Cooperatives and Medium and Smallscale Entrepreneurs Adi Sasono.

Fahmi said he understood that Malaysia still needed some 46,000 skilled and semi-skilled workers such as technicians and welders for its construction and other industries.

He said prospective employers could go over to Indonesia and recruit their workers or contact agencies in Indonesia.

Adi said the Indonesian delegation was in Malaysia to seek investment in the area of agriculture and fisheries as well as other industries.

He said Indonesia also welcomed Malaysians to set up industries in his country in joint venture with third parties such as those from western countries.

He said these were some of the proposals made during the meeting with Dr Mahathir and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

On the use of local currencies in regional trade, Adi said Indonesia was ready to use the rupiah for such trade.

He said Indonesia's readiness in this respect was based on the commitment of Malaysia and other regional countries to the use of the local currencies for trading.

He said Anwar welcomed the Indonesian Government's move and had informed the delegation that he would send a letter to the Indonesian Finance Minister calling for early discussions on the setting up of a clearing house by the banks of the two countries.

Adi said they also discussed with Dr Mahathir the importance of the two countries strengthening relations to face the new challenges in the economic field.

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