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Tajol-Foreign

PRODUCTIVE SECTORS TO BE ALLOWED TO RECRUIT FOREIGN WORKERS

SUNGAI SIPUT, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Productive sectors facing serious labour shortage will be allowed to recruit foreign workers soon, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said today.

He said the government had agreed in principle to allow foreign workers to work in particular in the plantation, construction, manufacturing and hotel sectors.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to approve the matter at a meeting on the cabinet committee on foreign workers soon, he told reporters after a briefing session on current issues for Sungai Siput Umno leaders at Felda Lasah, here.

"We have not determined the number of foreign workers to be recruited but the figure will be big," he said.

Tajol Rosli said that between January and September last year, the cabinet committee had approved intake of 100,000 foreign workers, including those already in the country for the plantation (70,000) and manufacturing (30,000) sectors.

He said the government later added another 50,000 workers for both sectors including in Sabah.

The government had no choice but to approve recruitment of foreign workers as the locals were not interested in working in the two sectors which served as the backbone to the nation's economic growth, he said.

On Harakah, the official newspapers of opposition PAS, Tajol Rosli said PAS should ensure that the newspapers were distributed among party members only.

The government might be forced to take stern action if PAS continued to sell the newspapers to the public, he said.

--BERNAMA

LAT ABG