

29 AUG 2002

Prima-Workers

DO NOT MAKE STATEMENTS THAT CAN LEAD TO TENSION- PRIMA

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- The Indonesia-Malaysia Friendship Society (Prima) today urged all groups in Indonesia and Malaysia not to make any statement on the issue of Indonesian workers in Malaysia the can fuel tension between the two countries.

Its head Try Sutrisno advised Indonesian nationals not to resort to any action that could jeopardise efforts to find a solution to the problem of Indonesian illegal workers in Malaysia.

"I urge the Indonesian community to exercise restraint and not to be provoked into destructive action which will make the process of resolving the Indonesian manpower problem more difficult," he said in a statement.

Try's statement released in Jakarta was made available to the Malaysian media by Wisma Putra.

He said both parties should safeguard the existing good relations and must have mutual respect and trust.

"We believe that Indonesia and Malaysia have been engaged in constructive efforts to resolve this problem amicably," he said.

However it would take time to resolve this issue as several procedures would have to be adhered to, he said.

Try urged Indonesian nationals in Malaysia to respect the local laws and not to be influenced into any action that would lead to quarrels with a view to safeguarding the good name of Indonesians in general.

Prima was set up to enhance bilateral relations in the area of education, culture, technology and also in the social and humanitarian field.

Representatives from both countries signed a memorandum of understanding to forge cooperation in the various fields at Istana Tampak Siring, Bali, on Aug 9 and the ceremony was attended by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri.

-- BERNAMA

MUN AHH AAM