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Hualon-Indons

RIOT-HIT TEXTILE FACTORY INTENDS TO RECRUIT MORE FEMALE INDONS

SEREMBAN, Jan 23 (Bernama) -- A Taiwanese textile company at the Nilai Industrial Estate, whose Indonesian workers staged a rampage last Thursday, is considering taking in more female Indonesian employees in future.

Hualon Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd Manager Johnson Hsu, however, said it would depend on the Malaysian government's foreign workers' recruitment policy.

"If they (Malaysian government) allow us to recruit female Indonesian workers, we're happy to do so. We've discussed this matter and the company had agreed to take in more female Indonesian workers in future," he told Bernama today.

He said the move followed last Thursday's rioting by about 500 Indonesian workers who went on a rampage, damaging police vehicles and the company's properties, in protest over the arrests of 16 of their colleagues who were tested positive for drugs.

At present, the company has 1,700 Indonesian workers including about 100 female employees. Most of them are from Medan.

Besides Indonesians, the company employed 1,200 Bangladeshis and about 4,500 locals.

Asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that Indonesia might be the last choice in the recruitment of foreign workers to Malaysia, Hsu said the company would abide by the government's decision.

He also expressed satisfaction with the action taken by the police in handling the incident.

Hsu said the factory management did not expect such an incident to happen at the factory's hostel.

"We'll not tolerate such unruly behaviours in future. The management is monitoring the situation," he added.

A total of 146 Indonesian workers have been detained following the incident, including 21 last night. Sixty-nine of them were deported to their country today.

-- BERNAMA

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