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Vietnam-Labour

VIETNAM EAGER TO SIGN LABOUR AGREEMENT WITH MALAYSIA

SEPANG, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Vietnam wants to sign a labour agreement with Malaysia as soon as possible to regulate its workforce for employment in the country.

"We hope we could sign the labour agreement as soon as possible to facilitate our workforce to start work here immediately," Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung told Bernama at the KL International Airport here before leaving for home late last night.

During his three-day visit, Dung met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, for bilateral talks.

He said that the agreement would set the legal framework for Vietnamese workers to work here and spell out the "do's and don'ts" when they start working in the country.

The Malaysian government's move to allow Vietnamese workers ply their trade here, he said, was a good start for bilateral relations between the two nations.

"We, in a short period of time, brought in some 5,000 Vietnamese workers and the Vietnamese government wish that we could bring in more workers especially in the manufacturing and construction sectors," he said.

He said that Vietnam would dispatch its workers to Malaysia only if they were requested by the Malaysian government and hoped that Malaysia would support and extend its fullest cooperation to these workers.

"On the other hand, we also want workers from Vietnam to abide by local laws and this is why we want the agreement signed soon," he said.

He said that Vietnam would train its workers before sending them to Malaysia especially in terms of language capability of the workers.

Vietnam signed a memorandum of understanding with Malaysia on the intake of immigrant labour from the former war-torn nation in February this year.

Dzung also said that the purpose of his visit was to foster closer relations with Malaysia and to find ways to increase bilateral trade between the two countries.

"Vietnam has excellent relations with Malaysia and we want to build on that and we think that the labour exchange would enable us to get closer to each other," he said.

Dzung said that Vietnam supports the Malaysian government's proposal for the setting up of the Asean+3 (Asean plus Japan, Korea and China) secretariat in Kuala Lumpur.

"We view any initiative like this as a way to strengthen relations with the three major economic players of the region...we should be supportive of this initiative," he said.

He said that during his meeting with Dr Mahathir and Abdullah, the two leaders explained the idea of the setting up the secretariat in Kuala Lumpur and with the "enlightenment", Vietnam was sure that Malaysia's proposal was a good idea.

The idea to set up such a secretariat in Kuala Lumpur was proposed by Dr Mahathir in the middle of last year but the recently-concluded Asean Summit in Brunei failed to reach a consensus on the matter.

Some of the 10-member Asean states did not agree that the Asean+3 secretariat be set up in Kuala Lumpur, but Malaysia, after the deadlock had vowed to pursue the matter.

"We would be willing to discuss this matter with other Asean members and convince them of the idea...we want to reach a consensus," he said.

Dzung also extended his thanks to Malaysia for the assistance and support rendered to the Vietnamese government.

"We hope that this cordial relationship between the people of the two countries would continue and we thank the Malaysian government for all the assistance it has provided for stronger relations between the two countries," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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