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Kayveas-Workers

KAYVEAS SUGGESTS LABOUR FROM INDIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- The government, which is saddled with problems of illegal immigrants from Indonesia and the Philippines, should instead look at bringing labour from India, said Housing and Local Government Deputy Minister Datuk M. Kayveas.

"We should look at alternatives and India looks very inviting... if they are brought here we can control them as they would not have problems in language and so on," he told reporters after attending the People's Progressive Party's Youth Wing's annual general meeting (AGM) at the Putra World Trade Centre, here today.

The AGM was opened by the Barisan Nasional Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

Kayveas said he believed that Indian labourers would be better suited for Malaysia as there were cultural ties between them and Malaysia.

"We already have Indians here and with more coming to work here, any problem could be sorted out fast," he added.

Over the past month, the government had been facing problems from Indonesian and Filipino workers after it decided to send them back to their homeland, after the amnesty granted to illegal immigrants expired on July 31.

Last week, in retaliation to the government's move, a mob in Jakarta burnt the Malaysian flag and tried to break into the Malaysian embassy in Indonesian capital.

A similar protest was staged in Manila and yesterday Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced that the government had temporarily halted sending the Filipinos back.

Dr Mahathir said the decision was taken after he received a telephone call from Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

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