

27 JAN 2002

Cuepacs-labour

TRAIN MORE LOCALS IN MULTI-SKILLS- CUEPACS

By: David Chelliah

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs, the public sector union umbrella body, has proposed that the Government consider building more vocational and technical schools to produce skilled people for the labour market and re-train workers in areas now dominated by foreigners.

Cuepacs president Datuk N.Siva Subramaniam said the only way for Malaysia to overcome the acute labour shortage and not depend on foreign labour was to train its own workers and allow students awaiting exam results to work on a part time basis.

He said schools should give merit points for students who worked part-time during the holidays or while waiting for the examinations results.

"These students can work in convenience stores or petrol-kiosks while waiting for their results," he told Bernama in an interview.

Siva said local workers should also learn additional skills to meet the needs of certain sectors.

"Slowly stage by stage we can reduce the import of foreign workers," he said.

He said Cuepacs had endorsed a resolution to stop the influx of foreign workers and suggested that gardeners and "jagas" in the public sector be trained in multi-skills,

He said there were 20,000 contract workers in the public service and most of them were employed as gardeners and jagas who could be trained in other fields and be roped in when there was a need.

He said Cuepacs had expressed concern over the recent rioting of Indonesian workers in Nilai and fighting among themselves in Dengkil.

"The bad examples set by foreign workers will influence the local workforce and hence the country should have enough locally trained workers to meet the market demand," he said.

Siva said Cuepacs welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion that more Rukun Tetangga (neighbourhood watch) sectors be set up to produce an even more harmonious and prosperous society.

"Cuepacs has pledged its full support for Rukun Tetangga projects to be further developed. Everyone in Cuepacs supports Dr Mahathir's idea to develop the Rukun Tetangga," he said.

"No one should compromise when it comes to unity and Dr Mahathir rightfully pointed out the role of Rukun Tetangga programmes," he said.

Dr Mahathir yesterday said among other things that Rukun Tetangga also served to monitor and resolve issues at grassroot level before they worsen and spread.

The Prime Minister had said the Government would continue to give strong support to Rukun Tetangga and extend more aid to it to ensure that its community programmes and activities were successful.

-- BERNAMA

DC AZZ AAM