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Vietnam keen to sign labour agreement soon

SEPANG, Thurs. - Vietnam wants to sign a labour agreement with Malaysia soon to regulate its workforce for employment in the country.

"We hope we can sign the labour agreement as soon as possible so that our workers start work here immediately," Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said at the KL International Airport here, before leaving for home last night.

Nguyen, who was here on a three-day visit, met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said the agreement would set the legal framework for Vietnamese workers to work here and list the "do's and don'ts".

"We, in a short period of time, brought in some 5,000 Vietnamese workers.

"The Vietnamese Government wishes that we could bring in more, especially in the manufacturing and construction sectors," he said.

"We also want our workers to abide by local laws and this is why we want the agreement signed soon."

Vietnam signed a memorandum of understanding with Malaysia on the intake of immigrant labour in February this year.