

**Govt Suggests Free Replacement For Runaway Maids**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**May 29, 2011**

KUALA TERENGGANU -- The government plans to set a new rule for maid agencies to replace runaway Indonesian maids for free.

Deputy Human Resource Minister Maznah Mazlan said the rule was still being discussed with maid agencies while awaiting signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the governments of Malaysia and Indonesia on Monday which would lift the ban on export of maids from the Indonesian republic that has been in force since 2009.

Employers may also be allowed to retain foreign maids' passports for security reasons based on mutual consent, she said.

Maznah told this to reporters after opening Kuala Terengganu Wanita Umno annual delegates meeting here yesterday.

The one day a week off-day for Indonesian maids once the freeze was lifted was also dependent on the employer-maid agreement, she said, adding that she would also be travelling to Indonesia to visit several maid training centres for an update on their preparations prior to the maids arrival in Malaysia.

(Bernama)

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Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/53509>