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# Talent Corporation will woo back skilled workers

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Talent Corporation will identify the pool of talent needed by the country, Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam said yesterday.

"We will get these people from within and outside the country, be they Malaysians working abroad or foreigners," he said.

Najib announced the setting up of the corporation when tabling the 10th Malaysia Plan (10MP) in Parliament yesterday.

Najib said the Talent Corporation



would identify shortages in key sectors and attract and retain the necessary skilled human capital.

There are about 700,000 Malaysians working abroad.

The Talent Corporation, which will be under the Prime Minister's Department, is expected to spearhead Malaysia's initiative to attract the Malaysian diaspora back to the coun-

try to contribute to the country's skilled manpower needs.

It will provide an integrated skilled human capital blueprint with the co-operation of the public and private sectors.

In addition, it will become a one-stop centre to coordinate with relevant government agencies, including immigration matters, for the entry of skilled workers into the country.

Under the plan, the government will issue open-ended visas to foreign workers earning more than RM8,000 a month and ease restrictions, allowing them to buy cheaper homes costing RM250,000 and above.

They will also have the flexibility to

change jobs in Malaysia. They will be allowed to bring in foreign maids and their spouses will be allowed to work, none of which is possible now.

The Malaysian Trades Union Congress welcomed the Talent Corporation as a positive idea by the government.

Its secretary-general, G. Rajasekaran, said its establishment could help address and identify the needs in key sectors.

"It is a good mechanism because tailored training developments can also be designed."

Rajasekaran said with the Talent Corporation, studies could be conducted and steps could be taken to retain skills in the nation.