

MALAYSIA, INDONESIA INK MoU

MoU spells out recruitment, protection mechanism for Indonesian domestic helpers

JAKARTA

MALAYSIA and Indonesia yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding on the recruitment and protection of Indonesian domestic helpers (MoU on PDI) in Malaysia.

The signing of the MoU was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Indonesian President Joko Widodo at Istana Merdeka here.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan signed on behalf of Malaysia and Indonesia was represented by Manpower Minister Ida Fauziyah.

Ismail Sabri, in a joint press conference with Joko after the event, said the MoU would ensure that all recruitment processes and protection mechanism for Indonesian domestic helpers (PDI) were implemented in a comprehensive manner by the relevant parties, in accordance with the policies and laws of both countries.

"The single-entry channel for PDI into Malaysia was agreed upon by using only the single-channel system spelt out in the MoU for screening employers to ensure that only those qualified can hire PDI."

Ismail Sabri stressed that Malaysia had ratified Protocol 29 of the International Labour Organisation as a sign of its commitment at the international level to combat the issue of forced labour, including giving protection to migrant workers from Indonesia.

In protecting the welfare of domestic workers, initiatives have been taken, including contributions through the Social Security Organisation and guarantees on



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Indonesian President Joko Widodo taking a stroll after Friday prayers at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

salary payments via e-Wages to ensure that salaries are paid not later than the seventh day of every month.

A weekly rest day and an e-complaint application for workers to make complaints online have been introduced, apart from other welfare benefits stated in the service contract.

The MoU also paves the way for the re-entry of Indonesian workers in other sectors allowed by Malaysia.

Ismail Sabri said the MoU would bring major and lasting benefits to the people of Malaysia and Indonesia.

The signing of the MoU was described as a significant milestone

reflecting the continued commitment of the Malaysian and Indonesian governments in managing the affairs of their peoples.

"As a neighbour, Malaysia always appreciates and welcomes the contributions of Indonesian migrant workers to the economic development, and life of Malaysians," Ismail Sabri said.

He expressed satisfaction with the fact that the MoU had undergone a series of discussions under several prime ministers before this, but was only signed during his time.

At a joint press conference later, Ismail Sabri said development along the Malaysia-Indonesia border areas would be intensified

following the opening of Indonesia's new capital city, Nusantara.

He said the areas that needed to be developed, whether in Malaysia or on Indonesia's side, would be identified.

"I am grateful that Bapak President has agreed for us to also identify the areas that will be developed by investors from Malaysia in Nusantara."

On oil palm, Ismail Sabri said both countries had agreed that the price of palm oil should be determined together, and not competed, in terms of fixing the price. Malaysia and Indonesia are the main exporters of palm oil and overall control the exports of the commodity. **Bernama**