

Najib to broach maid issue with Susilo at talks
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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is expected to broach the maid issue with Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono during the annual dialogue between the two countries.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam said despite a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between both countries more than three months ago to lift the moratorium, the situation has remained unchanged.

"The ban is still on. Until the Indonesian government decides to remove it, we are at a deadlock," he told a press conference after attending the appointment of council members and alternate members of the National Labour Advisory Council yesterday.

He said he was unsure why there was a delay in lifting the ban, adding that meetings had been held and if there was an issue, the Malaysia-Indonesia task force would have to study the whole matter again.

"We will honour everything which we have stated in the MoU. It is up to Indonesia now to honour their part."

Among the conditions in the MoU was that there would be a replacement maid or return of deposit from the employment agency if the maid did not pass her medical examination, was inefficient or ran away within six months of her employment, and that her salary was not less than the minimum wage in Indonesia.

On the National Wages Consultative Council bill, which was passed in Parliament and came into effect on Thursday, Dr Subramaniam said the members for the council would soon be appointed soon.

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