

Malaysia to mull hiring Myanmar maids, says Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 29 — Malaysia will consider bringing in maids from Myanmar to overcome a shortage here following a two-year supply freeze by Indonesia, the prime minister said today.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Putrajaya would consider the request by the Myanmar government made during his official two-day visit to the country that ended today, Bernama Online reported.

“We need further discussions about the proposal, we do not know the terms and conditions. But if the terms are acceptable, we certainly can consider that,” he said in Naypyitaw.

Najib, who described the people of Myanmar as “polite”, added that it would not be difficult to adopt the proposal if they were able to fit in culturally in Malaysia.

The Indonesian government banned its citizens from working as maids in Malaysia in June 2009, after numerous cases of maids being abused by their Malaysian employers.

Indonesia withdrew the moratorium on December 1 last year.

Najib met with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Bali at the end of last year as part of efforts to resolve the issue amicably.

But Jakarta has yet to start allowing the return of Indonesian domestic helpers to Malaysia despite rescinding the moratorium, leading to confusion here.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri S. Subramaniam said last week that Malaysians must be prepared to “do their own work” should foreigners no longer wish to work as domestic help here.

He had said that while foreign maids were readily available now, economic growth in source nations may mean foreigners will one day prefer to work in their home country instead.

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