

**More than 2 million legal foreign workers in Malaysia, Dewan Rakyat told – Bernama**  
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**By Jennifer Gomez**

The country recorded 2.07 million workers holding temporary employment visit pass as at December 31 last year, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Deputy Human Resource Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Abdul Muttalib said the entry of foreign workers was driven by the country's dependence on foreign workers in critical sectors.

"The lack of interest and high turnover of local workers in sectors which do not have good prospects for them has forced employers in the country to depend on foreign workers," he said.

Ismail was replying to a question by Dr Che Rosli Che Mat (PAS-Hulu Langat) on the statistics of foreign workers as well as efforts taken by the government to reduce the number of foreign workers with locals in stages.

On the efforts to attract local workers, Ismail said several initiatives had been taken, among them was the National Occupational Skills Standards as the standard to train workers according to the requirements of the industries.

The government has also introduced the National Dual Training System to provide skilled manpower via latest comprehensive training to expand skilled local manpower in stages.

Replying to a supplementary question by Datuk Noor Ehsanuddin Mohd Harun Narrashid (BN-Kota Tinggi) on the supply of local workers to meet the demand of the oil and gas sector, Ismail said the government is providing training programmes at 14 Manpower Department Industrial Training Institutes with 1,518 trainees.

"There are 19 training programmes offered including Megatronic, Quality Assurance Engineering and Computer Numerical Control," he said.

As at February, Ismail said the Skills Development Department has authorised six more government centres to offer programmes in the oil and gas industry. – Bernama, March 17, 2015.

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