

Need For Foreign Workers As Malaysians Not Interested In '3D' Sector

Bernama

Aug 7, 2015

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- The government has to bring in foreign workers, including those from Bangladesh as Malaysians are not interested to work in the '3D' sector - 'dangerous', 'difficult' and 'dirty', says Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"As the industry and business must continue, we needed to look for alternatives, which was bringing in workers from other countries, especially Bangladesh," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after receiving a courtesy call from Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali here today.

Ahmad Zahid said the issue of Bangladeshi workers was among the foci of discussions with Abul Hassan during the 30-minute meeting.

Last June, he was reported as saying about 1.5 million workers from Bangladesh would be brought into Malaysia in stages for three years, to meet the needs of employers from various sectors, especially in the plantation, construction, manufacturing and service industries.

The discussions also covered the prevention of deaths among Bangladesh nationals who tried to enter the country illegally either by sea or land, as well as protecting them from abuse by their employers.

"They were denied their salaries, not given accommodation and medication," said Ahmad Zahid, adding that the intake of Bangladeshi workers followed international guidelines.

He said foreign workers who would be brought into the country must be given basic training first in Bangladesh and have the relevant education for the field and sector they would join in Malaysia.

The deputy prime minister said other factors which could affect the entry of these workers into Malaysia included criminal records or diseases which could be detrimental to Malaysians.

Ahmad Zahid also said he would meet with representatives of non-governmental organisations which misinterpreted the government's intention on bringing in Bangladeshi workers to explain the rationale behind the move.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1159480>