

**Zahid asks youth to take up dangerous, difficult and dirty jobs**  
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**By Melati A. Jalil**

*Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today issued a challenge to the youth of the country to take up jobs in sectors currently dominated by foreign workers, as debate rages on over the need to bring in [1.5 million Bangladeshi workers](#) over the next three years.*

Speaking at the Selangor Youth Council 32nd annual general assembly in Shah Alam, Zahid asked those at the function if they wanted to work in sectors, such as plantation and heavy industries, to which he received a resounding “yes”.

“Do all of you, the youth, agree to work in oil palm estates?”

“I ask the youths now, whether all of you agree to work under the hot sun at construction sites to build houses?”

“I ask now, if you all agree to sweat in factories? Sweep the roads and clean the drains?”

The youth said yes to all his questions.

This later prompted Zahid to ask the council president, Datuk Irmohizam Ibrahim, who is also Kuala Selangor MP, to sign up all the 1,000 youths who attended the general assembly for 3D-related jobs –

referring to jobs considered “dirty, difficult and dangerous”.

However, Zahid said that realistically, Malaysian youths were choosy and not willing to work in the three sectors.

“You agree to it just like that? (But) This is the reality, young people do not want to do these kind of jobs.

“How many of you are willing to work as cooks at the local restaurants or work in furniture factories?”

“We need at least 160,000 workers in the factories. How many of you are willing to venture into areas currently being filled by foreign workers?” he said.

He added that in reality, employers with manpower shortage problem were left with only two options; to close shop or hire workers from other countries.

“Employers are complaining that hiring locals with minimum wage, Employees Provident Fund and other benefits, but locals tend to run away after a month or two,” he said.

Several youths met after the event gave a mixed reaction to Zahid's challenge, with many saying they don't really want to take up the 3D jobs.

Mohd Izzat Mohd Osman, 18, from Gombak said he has no plan to work in such fields while waiting for his SPM results, saying that he is currently occupied with football trainings.

"Today's youths want jobs that pay well, washing drains is not so attractive.

"I too am not going to do it," he said, adding that he did not shout in agreement when Zahid posed the questions earlier.

Lavanya Rengasamy, 21, who now works as a marketing administrator, said she agreed if foreign workers were sent back.

"Before our government gave the works to foreign workers, there were only Malaysians doing the jobs, then when these workers came, we were replaced," she said.

When asked if she was willing to take up the 3D jobs, she replied, "No."

Nur Syalwani Kasrun, 18, from Klang however said she has no qualms working in 3D sectors, adding that she had tried finding jobs in factories but was rejected due to employers' preference for foreign workers.

"If the works have its benefits, I don't mind doing it," she said.

School leaver, Mohd Amiruddin Latifuddin said the government should give priority to locals before offering the jobs to foreign workers.

"I am willing to wash drains if I have to, so send them all back." he said. – February 14, 2016.

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