

Pakatan youth leaders assure a million jobs if coalition rules

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Syed Saddiq says the coalition plans to cut the number of documented foreign workers from 3.3 million recorded last year to 2.5 million.

PETALING JAYA: Pakatan Harapan (PH) will create one million jobs in five years if the coalition takes over the government in the upcoming 14th general election (GE14), youth leaders of its component parties said today.

PPBM Youth chief Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman said locals could perform jobs currently taken up mostly by foreigners if they were offered proper terms.

He said the coalition plans to cut the number of documented foreign workers from the 3.3 million recorded last year to 2.5 million after coming to power, and provide more openings for locals.

The government needs to take such an initiative so as to address the problem of unemployment among Malaysians, he said.

“We have about 8 million undocumented foreign workers here. It can easily be said that the number of (Malaysian) Indians here are less than the foreign workers,” he said at a press conference at the PPBM headquarters here.

DAP Youth executive committee member Dyana Sofya Mohd Daud said more jobs can be made available for local youths, especially in 3D (dirty, dangerous, and difficult) sectors now mostly undertaken by foreigners.

“We have found that Malaysians are okay with working in the 3D sectors if they are provided with good treatment and good pay,” she said.

She said the DAP-led Penang government proved that youths are willing to be involved in 3D-related work when 2,437 youths, out of 25,000 who had applied, were last year employed to mostly do 3D functions with the Penang Island City Council (MBPP).

The initiative cost the DAP-led state government RM20 million, but it was worth it as unemployed youths were finally given the chance to work, she added.

“If Penang can do it (create more jobs), why can’t the federal government?” she said.

Amanah deputy youth chief Faiz Fadzil said the cost of creating similar employment at the federal level would be minimal if the PH government succeeds in preventing leakages and corrupt practices.

He said such leakages have cost the present government RM30 billion. He however did not mention the source of the figure.

According to a study conducted by the Department of Statistics in 2016, some 504,100 people were unemployed that year, with those aged 20 to 39 making up 69.8% of this figure.

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