

DATE: 15th JANUARY 2014 (WEDNESDAY)

MEDIA: THE STAR – ‘FAST MAID DELIVERY’ HITS SNAG- PG.6

THE STAR – PAPA: DON'T HIRE MAIDS BROUGHT IN USING JP VISA-PG.6

THE STAR – LEEWAY FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS TO WORK PART-TIME- PG.19

6 NATION The Star, WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2014

‘Fast maid delivery’ hits snag

Family pays for a helper and gets a surprise – she’s pregnant

By P. ARUNA
aruna@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A family here paid over RM10,000 in agency fees for the “fast delivery” of their Indonesian maid, only to find she is pregnant. They claimed, however, that when they tried asking for a replacement, the agency refused to take responsibility. Instead, the agency alleged that she only became pregnant after she was sent to the employer’s home. Businessman S. Rajah, 59, said his family had contacted the Puchong-based agency after it promised a “fast delivery” in an advertisement in a pamphlet.

“We were desperately in need of a maid at the time to care for my one-year-old grandson and help with housework,” he said when met at his home yesterday.

As the maid had come into the country on a tourist visa, the agency then arranged for her work permit and the Fomema medical check-up via a procedure known as the Journey Perform (JP) visa.

Under the JP Visa method, the domestic worker is brought into the country on a tourist visa, which is then converted into a work permit through an application to the Immigration Department.

Rajah said after the family paid the fees, they brought the maid home in July last year.

“When we received the results of the medical test from Fomema two months later, we were shocked to find that she was pregnant,” he said, adding that they confirmed her pregnancy with another clinic.

Rajah said the family was told the maid was already 11 weeks pregnant although she had only been with the family for a fortnight.

“I immediately contacted the agency. Although we had all the evidence, they refused to believe us or offer a replacement,” he claimed. The family lodged a police report and is now planning to take legal action against the agency.

“I had no idea I was pregnant when I agreed to come here to work. I had dizziness and nausea during the training sessions (in Indonesia) but I only found out I was pregnant after the medical test here,” said the maid, 37-year-old Masamah, who has a husband and two children back home in Jakarta.

Although Masamah wants to return home, she is now stuck here due to the struggle between her employer and maid agency.

Meanwhile, Rajah said the family had hired another maid, a Sri Lankan, as Masamah could no longer do much work.

“They treat me very well. I do simpler work like folding clothes, sweeping and helping with the cooking,” Masamah said.



Unexpected situation: Masamah only found out she was pregnant after she was brought into the country and sent to her employer’s home.

PETALING JAYA: No matter how desperately employers need a domestic worker, they should not agree to hire maids brought in by agencies using the Journey Perform (JP) Visa, said the Malaysian Association of Foreign Maid Agencies (Papa).

“Too many employers have been cheated by unscrupulous agencies who bring in maids this way. If anything goes wrong, the employer is not protected.

“If the employer is abusive or does not pay the maid’s salary, the maid is also not protected as the way she was brought into the country is not legal,” said its president Jeffrey Foo here yesterday.

The JP Visa is only legal when the employers themselves go to the source country, find a domestic worker there, bring her here and convert the visa into a work permit.

If they go through an agency, however, the agreement is not recognised by both governments.

Foo said many employers had been cheated by unscrupulous agencies over the past few years. He said the best solution was for employers to take the case to court.

The Star, WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2014 NATION 19

Leeway for foreign students to work part-time

PUTRAJAYA: Foreign students who work part-time at fast food restaurants are not required to have special permits or passes, Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said.

“The ministry is being considerate towards foreign students working part-time in fast food outlets. They are required to provide details of their employment to the Labour Department,” he told reporters yesterday.

Currently, foreign students are permitted to do part-time work for 20 hours per week during semester breaks or any holiday exceeding seven days in restaurants, petrol kiosks, mini markets and hotels only (excluding working as a singer, masseur, musician, GRO and other activities deemed immoral) as long as their student pass remains valid.

Permission to work part-time is extendable by the Immigration Department depending on the student’s attendance and academic reports.

It was previously reported that foreign workers already employed at fast-food outlets may continue in their jobs until the expiry of their work permit.

Dr Ahmad Zahid had said the work permits have a maximum validity period of three years. He was commenting on an announcement last week that fast-food restaurants would no longer be allowed to hire foreign workers.

The decision was made by the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers and Illegal Immigrants to give priority to Malaysians to take up jobs at fast-food outlets.

DATE: 15th JANUARY 2014 (WEDNESDAY)

MEDIA: THE STAR – JUST LIFE OF HARD LABOUR FOR GROUP OF MIGRANT

WORKERS- PG.4

Just life of hard labour for group of migrant workers

By TASHNY SUKUMARAN
tashny@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A group of men from Kerala and Tamil Nadu in southern India took out bank loans so that they could have the chance to work in Malaysia.

However, that was far from the truth.

The 23 men, aged between 20 and 48, were promised six-day work weeks, free lodging and a monthly salary of RM1,500 to RM1,800.

When they arrived, their passports were seized and they were forced to work in factories in Selangor and Johor.

For three months, they endured back-breaking labour, working 14 hours each day. They were fed near-rancid food and lived in squalid conditions.

When they asked about their salaries, they were beaten and threatened. Their employers claimed that their wages had been paid to the agencies.

Ratheesh, 26, said the workers had no choice but to buy day-old food from a restaurant under their lodgings.

When he and several others fell ill from chicken pox, their employers refused to take them to the doctor and insisted that they come back to work after three days.

"We protested, but they brought gangsters to threaten us. We were too scared to do anything, so we worked," he said.

Desperate, a worker approached T. Kamalanathan, president of the Malaysia Global Rescue Humanity organisation (MGRH), who managed to spirit them into a safe house, lodged a police report, and is now working on getting them home safely.

Kamalanathan said he would be taking the 23 men to the Indian High Commission today so they could be sent home, and urged the Indian government to crack down on dodgy agencies.

DATE: 15th JANUARY 2014 (WEDNESDAY)

MEDIA: BERITA HARIAN – KERAJAAN PATUT URUS AMBIL PEKERJA ASING- PG.5

BH 15 JANUARI 2014 © RABU **NASIONAL** 5

Kerajaan patut urus ambil pekerja asing

» *Pastikan data lengkap, mudah pantau kemasukan*

Oleh Mohd Nasaruddin Parzi
mnasaruddin@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Sudah tiba masanya semua urusan pengambilan pekerja asing diambil alih sepenuhnya agensi kerajaan atau kerajaan dengan kerajaan (C2G), bukan lagi melalui khidmat ejen.

Presiden Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC), Mohd Khalid Atan, berkata langkah itu memastikan rekod dan data lengkap serta jumlah pekerja asing sah atau tidak sah di negara ini dipantau dengan lebih sistematik.

Katanya, ia juga memudahkan pergerakan mereka dike-kan lebih awal serta mengurangkan kos majikan.

Katanya, komitmen dan perkhidmatan kedutaan asing di negara ini perlu dimaksimumkan, bukan saja merekodkan urusan kemasukan warganya, bahkan turut sama berperanan sebagai perantara dalam mendaftarkan pekerja.

"Isu kebanjiran pekerja asing berada pada tahap membimbangkan, langkah sedemikian mampu mengawal kebanjiran mereka untuk tempoh jangka panjang.

"Kita tak pernah menghalang penggunaan khidmat pekerja asing, kita larang kemasukannya, biarlah berpada dan mengikut keperluan, bukan sampai terlebih sehingga menjejaskan pekerja tempatan," katanya kepada BH.

Beliau berkata, menerusi langkah itu juga, kebajikan pekerja asing terbelas dan mengelakkan mereka mudah diperdaya ejen atau majikan se-

perti kes tipu dokumen, tidak dibayar gaji serta diberhentikan kerja tanpa ditanggung kos pulang.

"Sekarang, banyak kes pekerja asing tidak pulang ke negara asal selepas diberhentikan (majikan) atau visa tamat tempoh, termasuk ditahan dalam operasi pihak berkuasa, alasannya tiada duit.

Mampu kurang kos
"Ini memberi impak buruk kepada kerajaan (tanggung kos pulang dan makan minum di depot tahanan)," katanya.

Mohd Khalid turut mencadangkan sistem berstruktur pekerja asing dibangunkan kerajaan dan ditadbir urus serta dikemaskini satu jabatan saja tanpa membabitkan pelbagai agensi.

Beliau juga meminta keputusan kerajaan melarang pekerja asing bekerja di restoran makanan segera diperluaskan kepada sektor pembuatan, perkhidmatan dan keselamatan.



"Kita tak pernah menghalang khidmat pekerja asing, yang kita larang kemasukannya biarlah berpada"

Mohd Khalid Atan,
Presiden MTUC

Beliau turut mencadangkan penubuhan suruhanjaya khas dianggotai ahli akademik, pakar ekonomi, pihak berkuasa, kesatuan sekerja dan majikan serta agensi tertentu bagi memantau jumlah pekerja asing serta menyediakan laporan kepada kerajaan.

Kaji semula SOP bawa pulang senjata api

Petra Jaya: Polis perlu mengkaji semula Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) membawa senjata api kerana SOP sedia ada masih gagal mengekang kehilangan aset itu terutama dalam kalangan anggota yang tidak bertugas.

Timbalan Menteri Dalam Negeri, Datuk Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, berkata mengikut SOP sedia ada, beliau difahamkan selepas tamat tugas rondaan atau kawalan, setiap anggota perlu menyerahkan senjata api kepada penjaga stor.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, persoalan timbul apabila beberapa kes kehilangan senjata api berlaku memabitkan anggota yang tidak bertugas.

Teliti keperluan bawa senjata
"Saya mahu polis meneliti semula keperluan anggotanya membawa senjata api selepas waktu bertugas dan mengkaji semula SOP sedia ada yang jelas masih gagal membendung kehilangan senjata api di kalangan anggota," katanya selepas sambutan Maulidur Rasul di Sekolah Kebangsaan Matu Baru, di sini semalam.

Beliau mengulas kejadian anggota polis bertugas di Lundu, Kuching yang kehilangan pistol jenis Walter P99 bersama dua kelopak dengan 21 butir peluru di Jalan Stephen Yong, Ahad lalu selepas kenderaan miliknya dipecah penjenayah.

DATE: 15th JANUARY 2014 (WEDNESDAY)

MEDIA: NEW STRAITS TIMES – BAN DOESN'T COVER FOREIGN STUDENTS- PG.10

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

Ban doesn't cover foreign students

PUTRAJAYA: The ban on foreign workers in fast-food restaurants do not apply to international students who want to work part time.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said foreign students did not need a special permit to work part-time but need to notify the Labour and Immigration Departments of their employment.

"We encourage students in general to work part-time and we will not prevent foreign students from doing the same as well," he said after the launch of Police's Liga Perdana football team near here yesterday.

Earlier, the government had decided to allow foreign workers to remain employed until their permits expired after taking into account the levy fees paid by employers.

Zahid was also quoted as saying that many foreign workers had between six months and two years before their permits expired.