

DATE: 12th JANUARY 2014 (SUNDAY)

MEDIA: NEW STRAITS TIMES – GRASS NOT GREENER FOR FOREIGN GRASS CUTTERS

Retrieved from: <http://news.asiaone.com/print/news/malaysia/get-workers-legalised-malaysia-bosses-told>

The screenshot shows the New Straits Times website interface. At the top, the masthead reads "NEW STRAITS TIMES" with a search bar to the right. Below the masthead is a navigation menu with categories: HOME, NATION, STREETS, WORLD, BUSINESS, SPORTS, LIFE & TIMES, OPINION, GALLERIES, 7 DAY NEWS, CHANNELS, RED. The main content area features a "COLUMNIST" section with a "View Now" button and a Knight Frank logo. The article title is "Grass not greener for foreign grass cutters" by Noor Adzman Baharuddin. The article text discusses the challenges faced by local grass cutters as they compete with foreign workers. To the right of the article is a sidebar with "OPINION" and "STREETS" sections, a "MOST READ" list, and a "MOST COMMENTED" list. At the bottom of the article, there are social media sharing options (Share, Tweet, Google+, Pinterest) and a "Comments" section. The page also includes several advertisements, such as "Restaurant Malaysia" and "Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa".

NEW STRAITS TIMES SEARCH

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12 January 2014 | last updated at 12:39AM | Email | Print

Grass not greener for foreign grass cutters

By Noor Adzman Baharuddin | noadzman@nst.com.my
Writer is a NST Alor Star bureau chief

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CHANGE: Locals are taking up jobs they previously shunned to make ends meet

Imran is a worried man. The 33-year-old Bangladeshi was making good money until several months ago.

Armed with a trimmer, he would make his rounds on a motorcycle in a number of housing estates in Bayan Baru, Penang, to cut grass.

For an hour's job on lawns, mostly about half the size of a badminton court, he would earn RM20-RM25 per trim.

On a good day, especially on weekends or during the festive seasons, he could make about RM75 a day. He used to earn about RM200 a week from "potong rumput".

Not bad considering it is only a part-time job because he works full-time as a dishwasher and general helper in an eatery in the night time.

In all, Imran, who claimed he is in the country legally, used to earn about RM1,600 a month. Of late, he has seen his fortunes dwindle. Some locals have been making their rounds, encroaching on his territory to also "potong rumput".

It was a job once regarded as less dignified, but many have taken it up to supplement their income.

Many locals, especially youngsters, too, are familiar faces in car wash outlets and eateries, including trendy outlets. These are good signs in Malaysia.

Either hard-pressed for a living or simply wanting to earn extra cash, many Malaysians, especially low-income earners, are taking up extra jobs, moonlighting to boost their livelihoods.

OPINION
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STREETS
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Back to Imran. He said it was a matter of time before Malaysians would take back many of the jobs that locals had shunned and were later filled up by foreigners.

As such, the government's recent call to fast-food restaurants to give priority to locals when hiring workers is timely.

As announced by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin after he chaired the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers and Illegal Immigrants, many locals, especially youngsters, have shown a keen interest to take up jobs in eateries like McDonald's, Burger King and Pizza Hut.

It is equally assuring that fast food-restaurants are receptive to the committee's call.

Change is inevitable. And changes must be made after careful study and be carried out in phases to not disrupt the balance between job supply and demand, considering many economic sectors, especially construction and plantation, are dependent on foreign labour.

Penang Federation of Malay Students information chief Ahmad Yaq Kub Nazri said the fact that there were more than two million foreigners employed in almost all of the nation's economic sectors proved that jobs were aplenty.

"There is no real unemployment in Malaysia. Just ask any migrant worker and he would say Malaysia is a land of bounty."

He said all must adjust considering the uncertain global economic environment. By adjusting, he meant policy-makers, employers as well as the Malaysian labour force, which he described as not fully tapped, must keep transforming and progressing.

"There must be a good match between educational opportunities and job availability, which is a major cause of unemployment among graduates.

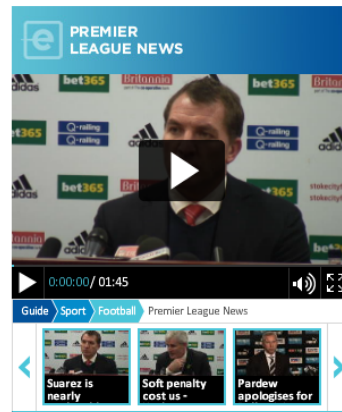
"In cases where job opportunities are few, graduates must learn new trades or skills and take up jobs different from the courses they had majored in in university."

As such, it is not a far-fetched option for graduates to turn to potong rumput, but not the Imran-way, of course. They could transform these less-dignified jobs into thriving businesses with an organised workforce.

They could revolutionise potong rumput and turn it into a major economic activity, one which employs a huge workforce of skilled grass-cutters with knowledge of lawn care and landscaping.



Many locals, especially youngsters, have shown keen interest to take up jobs in fast-food eateries.



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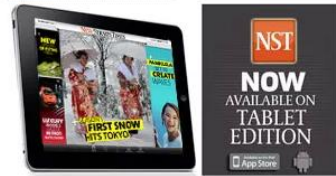
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DATE: **12th JANUARY 2014 (SUNDAY)**

MEDIA: **ASIA ONE ONLINE – GET WORKERS LEGALISED, MALAYSIA BOSSES TOLD**

Retrieved from: <http://news.asiaone.com/print/news/malaysia/get-workers-legalised-malaysia-bosses-told>

1/13/14

Get workers legalised, Malaysia bosses told



Get workers legalised, Malaysia bosses told



Photo: The Star/ANN

Sunday, January 12, 2014 - 13:42
New Straits Times

BAGAN DATOH - The Home Ministry has warned that stern action will be taken against anyone who harbours illegals after the deadline for them to take up the government's offer to be legalised expires on Jan 20.

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said there were strict laws to deal with those who harboured illegal immigrants.

He said nationwide operations to weed out illegals from their hideouts would be conducted from Jan 21 to Dec 31. They would not only be carried out at plantations and factories but also business premises and others.

"We have information of their whereabouts. We are also aware that business premises that are supposed to be rented out to locals, are being rented out to traders who employ illegal foreign workers.

"They now have eight days left to legalise their workers," he said after launching the 42nd Reli Day celebrations here yesterday.

Ahmad Zahid said Reli (People's Volunteer Corps) personnel would be roped in to join the operations.

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DATE: 12th JANUARY 2014 (SUNDAY)

MEDIA: BORNEO POST ONLINE – CUEPACS PROPOSES GOVT REVIEW EXPENDITURE ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Retrieved from: http://humanrights.einnews.com/article/184812073/jV75iO-bujqTwD_0?n=1&code=xkDcHLa7pAbUwOKQ

The screenshot shows the Borneo Post Online website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation tabs for Home, News, Biz, Sports, Utusan Borneo, thesundaypost, and Columns. The main article is titled "Cuepacs proposes govt review expenditure on illegal immigrants" and is dated January 11, 2014. The article text discusses the proposal to reduce the cost of sustaining illegal immigrants from RM75 to RM35 per person daily. To the right of the article, there is a Telenor Group advertisement with the slogan "It's not about what you build. It's about who you build it for." Below the advertisement is a banner for the "International Education Fair 2014" with "67 days left" remaining. At the bottom right, there is a "POPULAR" and "LATEST" news section listing several headlines.

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Cuepacs proposes govt review expenditure on illegal immigrants

Posted on January 11, 2014, Saturday

KUALA LUMPUR: The Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) yesterday proposed that the government review the cost of sustaining illegal immigrants held at 13 immigration detention depots throughout the country.

Cuepacs president Azih Muda said the cost of sustaining foreign detainees was too high and Cuepacs suggested that the amount be reduced from RM75 per person daily to RM35 per person daily.

He told Bernama here yesterday that the government had to spend about RM2,250 a month on one illegal immigrant when there were civil servants who earned less than RM900 a month.

"In this regard, it was appropriate for the government to review the cost and we believe people in the country will not spend up to RM75 a day especially the lower-income civil servants," he said.

Azih said the cost was too high as the amount exceeded RM500,000 a day giving the impression that the government was giving those who entered the country illegally special treatment.

Cuepacs was also of the view that if the government's burden was reduced, the allocation could be channelled towards the people's welfare such as raising the salaries and allowances of civil servants, 1Malaysia People's Aid and so on.

On Jan 4, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the government had to undertake expenditure of about RM500,000 a day or about RM75 per person daily to accommodate about 6,500 illegal immigrants held at 13 immigration depots in the country.

The government had to shoulder the cost of providing for illegal immigrants at the detention depots as the countries of origin refused to accept those without personal identification documents.

As of November last year, the government had spent about RM2.9 million to process the repatriation of illegal immigrants. — Bernama

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