

DATE: **16 FEBRUARY 2015 (MONDAY)**

MEDIA: **THE STAR – BRACE FOR INDONESIAN MAID SUPPLY CUT, SAY AGENCIES – PG.02**

Brace for Indonesian maid supply cut, say agencies

PETALING JAYA: Malaysians must get ready for a possible move by Indonesia to cut off the supply of its domestic helpers, maid agency associations said.

Referring to Indonesian president Joko Widodo's announcement on Friday that he wants women in his country to stop working as overseas maids "immediately", the associations said they were confident that such a move, though likely, would be gradual.

The associations said Malaysians must be ready to pay higher wages for maids while the Government must increase efforts to secure deals with new source countries for domestic helpers.

Malaysian National Association of Employment Agencies (Pikap) president Datuk Raja Zulkepley Dahalan said Indonesia had announced several years ago their intention to stop allowing their citizens to work abroad in "low-paying jobs".

"I believe what Indonesia will eventually do is draw up some new policy where its citizens will only be allowed to work in homes abroad if their jobs were 'upgraded'," he said.

The new jobs, said Raja Zulkepley, would likely be classified as "child-care" or "elderly care" helpers with minimum salaries of about RM1,200, and employers would not be able to ask them to do any work like cooking or cleaning.

Raja Zulkepley said the

Government should redouble efforts to find potential source countries for domestic helpers such as East Timor or China.

Malaysian Association of Foreign Maid Agencies (Papa) president Jeffrey Foo said any sudden maid supply cut from Indonesia would not make much of a difference as their arrival figures had dwindled since 2011 after the neighbouring country lifted a two-year moratorium on sending maids here.

Bernama quoted Malaysian Maid Employers Association president (Mama) president Engku Ahmad Fauzi Engku Muhsein as saying that the Indonesia's decision to stop sending maids overseas was not expected to severely burden Malaysian employers.

For the long term, he said the Government and private sector could look at setting up nurseries at workplaces, operated by trained child-minders.

DATE: **16 FEBRUARY 2015 (MONDAY)**

MEDIA: **NEW STRAITS TIMES – 500,000 TO BE DEPORTED BY YEAR-END – PG.13**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015

NEW STRAITS TIMES | PAGE 13

PRIME NEWS

500,000 to be deported by year-end

SURRENDER:
3+1 programme
to focus on
deporting illegal
Indonesians

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THE Immigration Department is looking into deporting 500,000 illegal Indonesian immigrants by end of this year.

Its deputy director-general, Datuk Sakib Kusmi, said this would be carried out under the department's 3+1 programme where the

illegal immigrants could surrender themselves voluntarily and be deported without being detained.

"Under the programme, those who surrender themselves only need to pay RM300 compound, RM100 special pass fee and provide proof of transportation ticket to their home country," he said yesterday.

Sakib said about 80,000 were sent back during the programme from July to December last year.

The programme is ongoing until end of December this year.

"They need to go back within three days after surrendering themselves. This is to give a chance for those who have overstayed and also those working illegally to go back without having to face any charges under the Immigration Act 1959/63 should they be caught during an operation," he said, adding

that there were about 1.3 million illegal immigrants from Indonesia working in the country.

Sakib also hoped that their Indonesian counterparts would strengthen their border security to ensure that their citizens leave the country only through a legal channel.

"They also need to ensure that the citizens have valid travel documents before coming to Malaysia."

He was responding to a report in the *New Straits Times* yesterday where Indonesian president Joko Widodo expressed his wish for Indonesia women to stop working as domestic helpers abroad.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Employers Association (Mama) president Engku Ahmad Fauzi Engku Muhsein said even with Joko's call not send domestic helpers abroad,

there would still be those that source illegally.

"There is a need to address the issue of maids coming through illegal means and not having valid documents. It will also not work if there are Indonesians willing to come to Malaysia illegally," he said.

Engku Ahmad Fauzi added that following the call from Joko, he would contact Asosiasi Perusahaan Jasa Tenaga Kerja Indonesia and other agencies that he had liaised with to discuss the matter.

He said as a short-term measure to deal with the issue, Malaysia needed to source for domestic helpers from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia and Timor Leste.

"For the long-term, the government has to look into ways to get more nurseries set up in the coun-

try as the main problem for a family is to find a babysitter. This includes giving tax-exemption for private businesses that provide such facilities," he said.

"It is also timely to offer certificate or professional courses to train local domestic helpers so it can be a professional and honourable career," he said.

"If we source domestic helpers locally, employers can save on visa, levy and medical check-up payment," he said.

Engku Ahmad Fauzi said Malaysians need to learn to be more independent by distributing household chores among family members.

"Their spouse has to help out in the house and the children can be trained to do the household chores to reduce the dependency on maids."

DATE: **16 FEBRUARY 2015 (MONDAY)**

MEDIA: **UTUSAN MALAYSIA – TIADA MASALAH INDONESIA HENTI HANTAR AMAH – PG.26**

16 Feb 2015 - Utusan Malaysia

26 DALAM NEGERI

Tiada masalah Indonesia henti hantar amah

■ KUALA LUMPUR 15 FEB.

MAJIKAN di negara ini tidak akan berdepan masalah sekiranya Indonesia mengambil keputusan menghentikan penghantaran pembantu rumah rakyatnya ke luar negara.

Presiden Persatuan Majikan Amah Malaysia (MAMA) Engku Ahmad Fauzi Engku Muhsein berkata kerajaan boleh mengambil beberapa langkah untuk jangka masa panjang dan pendek bagi memenuhi permintaan majikan itu.

Katanya untuk tindakan jangka panjang, pihak kerajaan dan swasta boleh mewujudkan pusat jagaan anak-anak di tempat kerja yang diawasi oleh pengasuh atau penjaga kanak-kanak terlatih.

"Idea ini dilihat bersesuaian pada masa kini, di mana ketika bekerja, ibu bapa masih boleh memantau keadaan anak-anak, kata beliau.

Ini berbanding anak-anak dihan-

tar kepada pengasuh yang mana agak kerap berlaku insiden kecederaan dan kematian anak ketika di bawah jagaan pengasuh, katanya ketika dihubungi *Bernama* di sini hari ini.

Engku Ahmad Fauzi diminta mengulas mengenai permintaan Presiden Indonesia, Joko Widodo yang mahu wanita di republik itu berhenti bekerja sebagai pembantu rumah di negara luar.

"Amalan menghantar wanita Indonesia untuk bekerja sebagai pembantu rumah perlu dihentikan. Kita mesti mempunyai maruah dan harga diri," Joko dipetik berkata oleh agensi berita *Antara*.

Sehubungan itu, Joko telah meminta Menteri Tenaga untuk merangka formula dan pelan tindakan bagi memastikan Indonesia berhenti menghantar amah ke luar negara.

Engku Ahmad Fauzi berkata, kerajaan juga boleh menubuhkan sebuah institut bagi melatih bakal

pembantu rumah di kalangan warga tempatan yang berkemahiran serta berkualiti.

"Institut ini akan berfungsi sebagai pusat pembelajaran mereka yang akan menjadikan pembantu rumah sebagai sebuah kerjaya atau profesyen yang dihormati kerana kepakaran dan kemahiran yang dimiliki mereka sebagai seorang amah," katanya.

Beliau berkata, untuk jangka masa pendek, kerajaan boleh membawa masuk amah dari negara seperti Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Kemboja, Sri Lanka dan Filipina.

Presiden Persatuan Agensi Pembantu Rumah Asing (PAPA) Jeffrey Foo menyokong langkah tersebut.

"Negara-negara seperti Kemboja, Bangladesh dan Nepal dipercayai tidak ada masalah untuk menyalurkan pembantu rumah rakyat mereka kepada majikan Malaysia," katanya. – **BERNAMA**