

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED

# INDONESIA LIFTS BAN ON WORKERS TO MALAYSIA

Both agree to integrate their systems for recruitment of Indonesian workers

JAKARTA

**I**NDONESIA has lifted restrictions on the entry of its workers to Malaysia and agreed to integrate the system between the Malaysian Immigration Department and the Indonesian embassy in Kuala

Lumpur for the recruitment of Indonesian domestic workers.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan yesterday said the integration would act as a single channel for the recruitment and entry of domestic workers into Malaysia as agreed in the recently signed

memorandum of understanding (MoU).

"This system will be operational within three weeks under the supervision of the Malaysia-Indonesia Joint Working Group," he said in a statement with his Indonesian counterpart, Ida Fauziyah.

He said a three-month pilot project would be implemented once the system's integration was completed to ensure its smooth execution.

"Therefore, the Indonesian side has agreed to withdraw the restrictions on the entry of domestic workers and Indonesian labourers into Malaysia starting Aug 1."

He said he believed the resolution of the MoU issues would lead to the smooth entry of In-

donesian workers into Malaysia.

He reminded employers whose foreign worker quotas had been approved by the ministry to immediately pay the levy to the Immigration Department.

Employers who wished to employ Indonesian workers could recruit them from Monday, he said.

On July 13, Indonesia announced the decision to temporarily freeze the entry of its workers into Malaysia for not using the single system as previously agreed.

Saravanan was in Jakarta yesterday in conjunction with the meeting of the Joint Working Group between Malaysia and Indonesia as outlined in the MoU regarding domestic workers, which was completed on July 27.

Policy and technical issues in the implementation of the MoU signed on April 1 were discussed at the meeting.

Earlier, Ida said a mutual agreement on necessary steps was crucial to ensure the full implementation of the MoU, especially on the One-Channel System.

Previously, the Joint Working Group had discovered policy and technical implementation issues that could affect the implementation of the MoU.

"We agree to take all steps to ensure that the terms in the MoU are complied with by all parties by involving both governments' agencies or institutions."

She said the effectiveness of the MoU's implementation was crucial before Indonesia sent workers to Malaysia. **Bernama**



Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan (second from left) and his Indonesian counterpart, Ida Fauziyah, holding documents at the signing of the memorandum of understanding in Jakarta yesterday.

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