

# Hire Indonesian maids through official agencies

EMPLOYERS looking for Indonesian maids have been reminded to hire through the official agencies to avoid being duped into paying more than the official rate of RM7,800, Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Ismail Abdul Muttalib said.

He said those who paid more than the rate agreed under the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Malaysia and Indonesia in September 2013 had used illegal agents not recognised under the agreement.

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**Under the MoU, the rate remains at RM7,800 and they can lodge a report if they are asked to pay more.**

— DATUK ISMAIL ABDUL MUTTALIB

a report if they are asked to pay more," he said in reply to a supplementary question from Datuk Ngeh Koo Ham (DAP-Beruas) during

question time.

Ngeh had asked the ministry to explain why some employers had to fork out more than double the rate.

Ismail said under the agreement, employers were not allowed to hire maids directly.

"The hiring of Indonesian maids must be done through a private recruitment company which is recognised by both countries," he said.

He said the rate had been set after taking into consideration other countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Middle Eastern countries.

"Factors such as less competitive cost has pushed Indonesian private maid agencies to send their workers to other countries offering higher pay as it will be more beneficial to the employees.

"This has resulted in a high demand for Indonesian maids in the country," he said.

Ismail also said the hiring of maids from other source countries was not controlled directly by the Government except for Indonesia.

"The hiring cost of maids usually depends on the demand and supply," he said.