

**INCLUSIVE OF LEVY, QUARANTINE COSTS**

# Saravanan: RM10,000-RM15,000 to bring in Indonesian maids

**PUTRAJAYA:** The government is planning to keep the cost of bringing in Indonesian domestic service workers at between RM10,000 and RM15,000. This includes levy and quarantine costs.

It was reported recently that foreign worker agencies had claimed that the cost of bringing in foreign maids, which was between RM16,000 and RM20,000 before the pandemic, could reach RM25,000 due to quarantine and screening tests.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan said Malaysia and Indonesia had agreed that the cost of bringing in maids should be controlled to curb unregistered agents.

He said this would be among the details that would be includ-



*Datuk Seri M. Saravanan*

ed in a memorandum of understanding involving the entry of Indonesian domestic service workers that was expected to be inked in the first week of next month.

“We want to control the cost (of

bringing in each worker), which is between RM10,000 and RM15,000, including levy and quarantine costs.

“The Indonesian government also wants Malaysia to abolish the move of hiring maids who enter (Malaysia) as tourists.

“Now, Indonesians who come to Malaysia as tourists can apply for a work permit.

“The Indonesian government think this is forced labour. They want it abolished before signing the agreement.”

He said this after witnessing the MoU between the ministry and Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia at the Social Security Organisation headquarters here yesterday.

He said he would discuss the matter with Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin

soon to get his views on the matter.

He denied that the cost of bringing in maids would reach RM25,000, as claimed by some foreign worker agencies.

He said was unaware how the parties involved could estimate these costs as no foreign worker had been brought into the country for the past two years.

He said employers faced additional costs because they had to bear the quarantine cost, which is mandatory for foreign workers.

He said his ministry would ask the government to reduce the quarantine costs for foreign workers.

“The quarantine cost is about RM3,000 for a period of between seven and 14 days, including screening tests.

“There were cases where foreign workers tested positive for Covid-19 even after seven days of quarantine. We need to work with the Health Ministry to address the spread of Covid-19.”

He reminded agencies to work as a team to provide information on foreign workers so that the statements issued were not contradictory.

His remarks came after Immigration Department director-general Datuk Seri Khairul Dzamee Daud, on Friday, said the fee charged by the government, through the Immigration Department, for the recruitment of foreign maids was reasonable at RM1,136, which included levy, visa (according to country), processing and pass fees, bail and other fees.