

# All may give feedback

## Govt to adopt KRA method to tighten rules on hiring foreigners

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS  
mazwin@thestar.com.my

**PUTRAJAYA:** The Government will adopt the National Key Result Areas method to tighten regulations on the employment of foreign workers.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said a special laboratory would be set up to get feedback from all the relevant parties and members of the public on the issue.

He said the Government was keen to find long-term solutions to issues concerning foreign workers, while at the same time ensuring that the smooth-running economy would not be jeopardised.

"There is a need to tighten loopholes and not to allow grey areas to exist.

"This is important because we do not want people to manipulate the situation, the laws and the regulations.

"I have ordered the lab to get cracking because the Government is aware that solutions must be obtained soon.

"We are aware that Malaysians are concerned over the issue and feel that we are not doing enough," Muhyiddin told reporters after chairing the meeting of the Cabinet committee on foreign workers and illegal workers yesterday.

He said the lab would also study proposals to offer employers incentives if they opted to hire local workers instead of engaging the services of foreigners.

He explained that the incentives



**Foreigner affairs:** Muhyidding talking to reporters during a press conference after chairing the meeting on foreign workers in Putrajaya yesterday. Looking on are Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam. — Bernama

could be in the form of tax relief or grants, but stressed it would have to be studied before a final decision was made.

The lab, he said, had also been directed to put outsourcing companies "under the microscope" to ensure that they stick to their role as providers of workers and not as employers.

According to the Home Ministry's record, there are 277 registered outsourcing companies but not all

are active.

The Deputy Prime Minister added that a new system would also be set up to record the movement of foreign workers to ensure that they did not overstay as illegal workers after their work permits expired.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said eight ministries and 15 agencies would be involved in the lab.

He reiterated the ministry's willingness to work closely with employ-

ers to solve the problems of hiring illegal foreign workers, adding that many had come forward to acknowledge the problem and were willing to work with the authorities to rectify this.

"Employers who come forward and engage with us over this problem will be given guidance and assistance, while those who continue to ignore us and our advice to come forward will not be able to do so much longer," he said.



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR
TARIKH	:	23/02/2010
MUKA SURAT	:	N4
:	:	UMUM