

CORPORATED MANAGEMENT / HUMAN RESOURCES

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Home Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi** with Indonesian Manpower and Transmigration Minister **Muhaimin Iskandar** during the latter's courtesy call in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail

Legalisation drive for Indonesians

3 MONTHS: 500,000 illegals to be assigned employers

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ABOUT half a million illegal Indonesian workers in the country will be legalised by year-end.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said a mass registration exercise would be carried out over three months, beginning Oct 15.

The decision to give illegal Indonesian workers here a chance at being legalised was made yesterday after he met Indonesian Manpower and Transmigration Minister Muhaimin Iskandar here yesterday.

Jakarta, at the same time, has said it it would trace workers who had been illegally self-employed here and match them with employers or sponsors. Immigration rulings state that foreign workers must be assigned to employers.

The registration, Zahid said, was an extension of the ministry's 6P Programme, a comprehensive legalisation programme for illegal immigrants, as well as the ministry's long-term measure to ensure all foreign workers in the country were legal.

In the legalising process, employers will be required to submit their workers' documentation to the Indonesian embassy for verification. Immigration officers at the embassy will facilitate the process and the workers' details will be updated in the department's database.

Zahid said the ministry would deal with

employers from various sectors to prevent congestion at the embassy during the registration drive.

The ministry will send letters to employers informing them of the documents needed for the registration. The legalising exercise involves those held at Immigration detention centres after they had been picked up by the department in Op Bersepadu.

Zahid said Immigration would stop issuing the Journey Performed Visa to Indonesians from Sept 30. He said this was to prevent them from operating businesses illegally after entering the country on the pretext of visiting.

The special visa is offered to nationals of non-Commonwealth countries who enter the country under the Social Visit Pass.

Zahid also announced that all legalised workers would be issued a special identity card from next year.

The colour-coded ID will indicate the workers' employment sectors and will be equipped with Radio Frequency Identification and biometric technology to stop workers from switching jobs.

Present was Immigration director-general Datuk Alias Ahmad.

On Indonesian maids, Zahid said the fixed RM8,000 to hire them as domestic helpers had been reduced to RM7,800, following the shortened recruitment process from 80 to 42 days.

The Indonesian government has also agreed that there would be no limit on the number of maids sent here.