

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 12 MAC 2024

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 2

Move to reduce number of foreign workers

Move to reduce number of foreign workers

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Economic Action Council will meet next month to discuss a mechanism to reduce the number of foreign workers in the country, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said the 13th Malaysia Plan, to be tabled next year, is also targeting a more drastic reduction in the number of foreign workers.

He expressed the need for the industry and economic sectors to prepare for the situation.

"This (reduction of foreign workers) requires not only policy changes but also cooperation from industries because there were objections when the previous government wanted to reduce the number of foreign workers in the country.

"If we continue to have these three million to 3.5 million foreign workers, with or without documents, it will create a group that offers a lower-cost structure.

"Our local traders will not be able to compete because they

(foreigners) would put lower prices on goods, resulting in people being more interested in getting products or services from them," he said during a question and answer session yesterday.

Rafizi was replying to a supplementary question by Datuk Mohd Shahar Abdullah (BN-Paya Besar) on the competition between local and foreign entrepreneurs, especially from Bangladesh, who are seen to be dominating the semi-skilled sector in the country.

He said one of the reasons

foreigners dominate the sector is due to locals leasing out their licences to them to get easy payments of RM3,000 to RM4,000.

"At the policy level, the government will introduce an 'Anti-Ali Baba Act' as there is no specific law that allows legal action to be taken against locals for leasing out licences.

"We also need to tighten the law to make it an offence to allow foreign workers to run businesses or enterprises using names of local residents." – Bernama