



08 JAN, 2020

## Malaysia looking at zero-cost system for hiring of Bangladeshi workers

The Edge Financial Daily, Malaysia

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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia is looking at a zero-cost recruitment agreement for migrant workers from Bangladesh, which is also part of the government's efforts to eliminate forced labour to avoid possible trade sanctions by the US, says Human Resources Minister M Kulasegaran.

"Discussion with the Bangladeshi government for new terms for a new agreement, which is now in the final stage, would be similar to an agreement signed between Malaysia and Nepal last year on recruitment, employment and repatriation of Nepali worker," he told reporters after the ministry's meet-the-clients programme yesterday.

As per the agreement, employer companies will bear recruitment service charges, two-way airfare, visa fee, health check-up, security screening and levy charges, among others, he added.

Kula said the Malaysian government had imposed a moratorium on the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers in 2018 and the bilateral discussions on the new terms for recruitment were progressing well.

"There are very few matters to be resolved. The matters are very few, out of the 10 to 12 matters, (only) the last one or two matters need to be resolved. Once they are resolved, we will open the sector. The government of Malaysia is ready and willing to do that (lift the moratorium)," he said.

Kula was responding to a news report on Monday which stated that Bangladeshi government had no intention of sending more locals to work in Malaysia until a more transparent recruitment system with lower costs is established.

— *Bernama*



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