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UNTIL SEPT 26

# Ministry okays entry of 541,315 foreign workers

**PUTRAJAYA:** The Human Resource Ministry has approved the recruitment of 541,315 foreign workers until Sept 26, 436,613 of whom have had their levies paid.

The ministry said after factoring in the presence of 1.3 million foreign workers in the country and the new approved quota, the number almost met the demand for foreign labour.

It said there was demand for around 1.8 million foreign workers, which was the highest ever.

The ministry said there were 1.3 million vacancies in various sectors that were allowed to be filled by foreign workers.

More than 612,000 migrant workers had registered and passed the Safety and Health As-

essment in their countries, while 228,321, or 37.3 per cent, had received approval for Visa With Reference from the Immigration Department and were waiting to enter the country.

The ministry said talks had been held with industry players on the recruitment of foreign workers.

The ministry said it was informed that certain industries, such as plantations, would not bring in their approved quota of foreign workers all at once.

"The recruitment will be carried out in stages according to the needs and plans of employers because they have up to 18 months to bring in foreign workers after the levy has been paid," it added.

**Bernama**

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