



MALAYSIA RELAXES IMMIGRATION RULES ON FOREIGN WORKERS

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Kuala Lumpur reported that the Malaysian government has relaxed its immigration policies. The move by the Malaysian government will allow some 380,000 illegal immigrants who had left Malaysia under the amnesty program to return using tourist visa for employment purposes.

Under the amnesty program, illegal migrant workers were fingerprinted using the biometric system and sent back to their home countries to obtain proper documents. Only those workers who availed of the amnesty program would be allowed to return.

The relaxation of Malaysian immigration rules is seen to alleviate the severe labor shortage in various sectors of the economy caused by the repatriation of illegal foreign workers. It is a departure from the previous stance of the Malaysian government on illegal migrant workers, which has resulted to mass deportation of illegals. The Malaysian government also lifted the ban, which it had earlier imposed on new workers for a specific period. The lifting was due to the low volume of re-entries.

Source: POLO-Kuala Lumpur

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