

Wee: Solutions to foreign workers issue soon

NATION

METALING JAYA: The Government has come up with several solutions to help solve difficulties faced by industries in hiring foreign workers, especially those in the export-oriented and manufacturing sectors, said Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong.

The Minister in the Prime Ministers Department said the Government was aware of the issue and that details of the solutions would be announced in the near future.

"We are concerned about the export-oriented industries and we have identified solutions to help them. However, we cannot announce the details at the moment.

"We will leave the official announcement to the Prime Minister and his deputy," he was quoted as saying by *Sin Chew Daily*.

Dr Wee said he and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed had worked together to resolve the issue.

"We met with the relevant parties last month, including the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers as well as representatives from the manufacturing and export-oriented industries.

"The outcomes have been reported to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his deputy Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"Discussions on the execution of the plans are almost completed and I believe the Prime Minister and his deputy will make the announcement very soon," he added.

Quoting a complaint by the Taipei Investors Association in Malaysia, a report said that various problems, including time-consuming processes faced by Taiwanese businesses in hiring foreign workers, have not improved.

The association said that many manufacturers dared not accept orders and if the unprofitable situation remained unchanged, their members would likely pull out their investments from Malaysia.

The report also quoted Malaysia SME Association vice-president Datuk Sim Eng Peng, who warned of a possible tide of divestment among investors if the foreign worker issue is not dealt with.