Maid deal in limbo

Jakarta awaits action over death of domestic help

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KUALA LUMPUR: The death of an Indonesian maid, allegedly at the hands of her employers, on Sunday has thrown the government into uncertainty on the importance of understanding on domestic help between Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Indonesian government is closely monitoring the action to be taken over the death of Isti Komariah and may review the MoU.

Isti’s death came just a few days after the May 30 signing of the MoU which put an end to an Indonesian government-imposed moratorium on the Republic’s citizens coming to Malaysia to work as domestic help.

Indonesian embassy information.

Social and Culture Affairs Minister Councillor Suryana Sastradireja told the Newspaper that the government was looking at the case with interest.

“The government of Indonesia awaits the action and decision of the case before considering to review the MoU, including the possible need to impose another moratorium.”

Suryana said Indonesia would demand that the maximum punishment be meted out on those responsible for Isti’s death.

“What is important is the process and decision of the case must be fast and it must be transparent. Charge the perpetrator as soon as possible.”

Suryana, however, called for his countrymen to respect Malaysian law and the authorities investigating the case.

He called Isti’s death “frustrating” after both countries had signed the MoU last week.

It took two years of discussion between both countries before deciding on the MoU.

Suryana said the MoU had proved that the Indonesian government was committed especially in helping employers in Malaysia who were having problems with manpower as far as domestic workers were concerned.

Still, the death of Isti is still under police investigation.

Meanwhile, Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Maznah Mazlan said a Malaysia-Indonesia CLEAR MESSAGE

Members of animal rights group People For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals (Peta) became the centre of attention at Bintang Walk, Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur yesterday afternoon when they painted themselves green and held placards to promote their “Go Green, Go Vegan” campaign. — NST picture by Samah Nafis

‘Set up club to be better husbands’

By Shuhada El
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KUALA LUMPUR: Husbands should form a club on how to become better leaders in their families, said Kelantan Mufif Datuk Mohamad Shukri Mohamad yesterday.

Shukri said the Quran teaches husbands to treat their wives in the best and most accepted ways.

“The Quran specifically mentions this to husbands,” he told the New Straits Times yesterday.

Shukri said even though Islam instructed a wife to obey her husband, it had to be done according to Islamic laws.

“Comparing a wife with a first-class prostitute is absolutely horrible.”

Shukri’s suggestion came following a statement by the Obedient Wives’ Club (OWC) international vice-president Datin Rohaya Mohamed on Saturday that a wife must obey and serve her husband like “a first-class prostitute” to keep him from straying and to prevent bigger social ill.

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