

Inundated with Foreign Workers, Indonesians Alienated in Their Own Country



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH20_140418]

The President of the Indonesian Migrant Union, Muhammad Iqbal, has strongly criticized the government's close relation with communist China especially in dealing with TKA or the Foreign Migrant Workers.

During a public discussion held in the building of PKS [the Islamic Prosperous Justice Party] in Jakarta on Thursday (12 April), he questioned the government policy on providing Chinese workers with the posts which supposed to be occupied by Indonesians. The theme of the discussion was "Increasing unemployment, Jokowi imports foreign migrant workers."

According to him, the increasing numbers of TKA from China are too obvious to ignore. During Jokowi's administration (2014-2017), it has increased as many as 68 per cent. There were 71 thousands TKA from China in 2014, while in 2017 they became 126,000 people. Most of them worked in the fields of technology, mining, production, and administration.

He said that the government should not have hurt the people. The doors for TKA should not have been opened up widely.

The worst things were that the government had provided Chinese workers with the posts which were supposed to be occupied by Indonesians. Indonesian people should not have been made feel like strangers and alienated in their own country.

Mentioning the negative impacts of such a policy, Muhammad Iqbal said that not only would there be contagious illness be spread up in the country, but it would also threaten the national security and conflicts (between TKA and local workers).

He further said that the government should have been for the people by, for example, increasing the manpower quality of the people so that they would be able to compete in the eras of digitalization and globalization. Otherwise, Indonesian Nation would be easily oppressed by those foreign capitalists.

Source: HS/HI, kiblat/2018/04/14/banjir-tka-rakyat-terasingkan-di-negara-sendiri/, "Banjar TKA, Rakyat Terasingkan di Negara Sendiri (Inundated with TKA, people alienated in their own country)", in Indonesian, 14 April 18.

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