

Pakistanis deserve a try

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian contractors should try out Pakistani workers, as they have the necessary skills and are physically fit to take on construction jobs.

NAC Far East Sdn Bhd managing director Naeem Chowdry said local contractors had yet to test the Pakistani workforce, which is known for its efficiency and high productivity.

NAC was the contractor that brought in some 600 Pakistani workers for the KL Sentral project.

“Bouygues, the leading French construction company that signed a contract with MRCB (Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd), brought us in to execute the civil works at KL Sentral in 1999,” Naeem said.

Describing KL Sentral as among the most difficult projects in Bouygues' history, Naeem said they decided to bring in Pakistani workers to complete it.



“However Pakistan was not on the list (of countries which could export their labour here) at that time.

“To bring them here, there was a provision – to transfer (only) Pakistani workers within the same company or group,” he said.

“We had no problems from our workers in their three years at KL Sentral,” he said.

Naeem said the construction sector needed healthy and strong workers and Pakistani workers fitted the criteria.

“I regard them as highly skilled workers, too.

“When you have skilled people, you are going to get the quality. I am speaking as an employer based on my experience in hiring Pakistani workers for KL Sentral and projects in other countries for the past 25 years,” he said.

Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Labour Counsellor at the Pakistan High Commission, said the first batch of 100,000 Pakistani workers would be adequately briefed before they leave.

“It is mandatory for all Pakistani workers coming to Malaysia to obtain police clearance.

“They will have machine readable passports, which Pakistan introduced three months back,” he said, adding that the extensive procedure was to an additional security check.

Abdul Aziz welcomed queries and urged concerned parties to contact the High Commission, adding that he hoped to change people's opinion of Pakistani workers.