

## **TRANSLATION OF APAKABAR PLUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**

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**Translated by PathFinders**

### **Afraid to check her pregnancy, an Indonesian migrant worker gave birth to a premature baby**

Tai Kok Tsui – A pregnant Indonesian migrant worker lost her job as she did not understand the laws in Hong Kong. The baby was also born pre-term “My child was born prematurely,” Reni said (Reni is not a real name). Apakabar Plus newspaper met Reni at PathFinders office in Tai Kok Tsui on Tuesday (25/3).

The baby was born on 17 February 2014. The baby’s name is Geofanny. She was only 33 weeks in mother’s womb or equivalent to 8 months and 25 days. Pregnancy period normally is 9 months and 10 days. Geofanny’s weight was only 1 kilogram and 8 ounces when she was born.

I did not dare to ask because I was terrified. I also never checked up to doctor. I was afraid to deal with law,” Reni said. Because of this the baby developed health problem and must stay in hospital for three weeks.

Reni has worked for three years in Singapore. After three years in Singapore Reni went home and married to a man chosen by her parents in May 2013. The agent in Singapore was looking for an employer for her before she went home. Reni, 27 years old, went to Hong Kong as foreign migrant worker in July 2013. “I did not know that I was pregnant,” she said.

Not like normal pregnancy Reni did not feel anything with her early pregnancy. After worked in Hong Kong for four months, she realized her stomach is weird. Out of curiosity her friends gave her suggestion to buy pregnancy test tool. “I felt very shocked when I knew I was pregnant,” she said.

It is normal that Reni felt shocked. She had medical test before her departure to Hong Kong. Reni also had medical test after her arrival in Hong Kong before she entered employer’s house. “The test result was negative,” Reni said. Reni is an Indonesian migrant worker and she has been staying for nine months in Hong Kong.

While she has worked for five months, Reni’s friends gave her suggestion to submit one-month termination notice to employer so that she can go home. To agent and employer she mentioned that she has family’s problem. “I did not say that I am pregnant, I was terrified.” Reni said.

At the beginning, her employer did not accept her request to terminate employment contract but finally her request was accepted and her employer asked her to stay until 16

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February 2014. On 12 February 2014 her employer asked her again to stay longer until end of month. "I was terrified because my stomach was getting bigger," Reni said.

Reni was born in 1986. Reni was off duty on Sunday when she received a PathFinders brochure and luckily she still kept it. On 17 February 2014 Reni called the PathFinders office when delivery signs clearer; her call was answered by Kelly Ooi. Reni called ambulance following suggestion from Case Manager of PathFinders.

"I was brought to United Christian Hospital in Kwun Tong at around 2pm and my child was born at 3:33 pm," Reni said. Reni worked in Lam Tin previously. She regrets because she called PathFinders only after she is in emergency situation. "If I only knew probably I am now still working." Reni said.

**T**AI KOK TSUI - Karena tidak memahami hukum di Hong Kong, seorang buruh migran Indonesia (BMI) yang sedang hamil harus rela kehilangan pekerjaan. Sang bayi pun terlahir tidak normal. "Anak saya lahir prematur," kata Reni (bukan nama sebenarnya), saat ditemui *Apakabar Plus* di kantor PathFinders, Tai Kok Tsui, Selasa (25/3).

Saat lahir pada 17 Februari 2014, Geofanny, demikian bayi itu diberi nama, baru berusia 33 pekan di dalam kandungan, setara 8 bulan 25 hari. Normalnya, 9 bulan 10 hari. Berat badannya hanya 1 kilogram 8 ons.

"Saya takut, makanya nggak berani tanya-tanya. Periksa ke dokter juga tidak pernah. Saya takut berurusan dengan hukum," kata Reni. Akibatnya, sang bayi mengalami gangguan kesehatan dan harus dirawat selama tiga pekan di rumah sakit.

Pada Mei 2013, setelah tiga tahun bekerja di Singapura, ia pulang dan menikah dengan pria pilihan orangtuanya. Karena sebelum pulang dicarikan majikan oleh agensi di Singapura, pada Juli 2013 perempuan 27 tahun ini berangkat ke Hong Kong, bekerja sebagai PRT asing. "Saya tidak tahu, kalau perut saya sedang isi," ujarnya.

Tidak seperti lazimnya, Reni tidak merasakan tanda apa pun saat hamil muda. Setelah empat bulan bekerja di Hong Kong, ia baru merasakan ada yang aneh di perutnya. Karena curiga, atas saran teman, Reni membeli alat tes kandungan. "Pas tahu hamil, saya shock banget," ujarnya.

Reni pantas terkejut. Sebelum berangkat,

**TAKUT PERIKSA KEHAMILAN**  
**BMI LAHIRKAN BAYI PREMATUR**

ia menjalani tes kesehatan. Begitu pula, setelah di Hong Kong, sebelum masuk rumah majikan. "Hasilnya, negatif," tutur BMI yang sudah sembilan bulan berada di Hong Kong ini.

Atas saran teman juga, ketika baru bekerja lima bulan, ia menyampaikan pemberitahuan (*one month notice*), agar bisa lekas pulang kampung. Kepada agensi, ia beralih ada urusan keluarga. Begitu juga kepada majikan. "Saya tidak bilang hamil. Saya takut," ujarnya.

Awalnya, majikan tidak menerima permohonan pemutusan kontrak kerjanya.



Belakangan, majikan melunak dan meminta waktu hingga 16 Februari 2014. Namun, pada 12 Februari, majikan minta diundur lagi hingga akhir bulan. "Saya sudah ketakutan, karena perut saya semakin besar," kata Reni.

Beruntung, perempuan kelahiran 1986 ini masih menyimpan brosur PathFinders yang ia terima saat libur pada hari Minggu sebelumnya. Ketika tanda-tanda kelahiran sang jabang bayi sudah semakin terasa, pada 17 Februari ia menelepon kantor PathFinders, diterima Kelly Ooi. Atas saran Case Manager PathFinders itu, Reni menelepon ambulans.

"Sekira jam 14:00, saya dibawa ke United Christian Hospital, di Kwun Tong. Jam 15:33, anak saya lahir," kata BMI yang sebelumnya bekerja di Lam Tin ini. Ia menyesal, karena menghubungi PathFinders setelah keadaan darurat. "Kalau saya tahu sebelumnya, mungkin saya masih bisa bekerja," ujar Reni. ★

(razak)

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