



TRANSLATION OF APA KABAR PLUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

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Translated by PathFinders

If You Are Pregnant, Keep Your Working Visa

BMI = Indonesian Migrant Worker

PRT = Domestic Helper

Prince Edward – If you are pregnant while you are working as domestic helper (PRT) in Hong Kong, you should not panic and do not have to be afraid. The most important thing to do is to keep your working visa and keep your status as Hong Kong resident.

This statement is from Chief Operations Officer PathFinders Luna Chan for Indonesian Migrant Worker (BMI) when she met *Apakabar Plus* newspaper at her office in Prince Edward. *“Don’t ever overstay, moreover choose to overstay intentionally,”* she said.

In order to not have overstayed status, Luna reminded BMI, not to break their employment contract when they know that they are pregnant. Keep employment contract not to be terminated by employer as well.

Luna suggested pregnant BMI to go to her office as soon as possible. PathFinders will assist them if they don’t know what to do so that they will not have overstayed status when they are pregnant.

Mediation between helper and employer before termination of employment contract is one of the ways to avoid overstaying. *“If already overstayed, it’s already too late,”* Luna said.

Luna explained overstaying in Hong Kong is a criminal act. By choosing or being forced to overstay in Hong Kong, they will be blacklisted and cannot work again in this concrete country.

Mediation act by PathFinders is very important. Termination of employment contract by employer when they knew that their helper is pregnant, happen because many employers do not know the law. They just terminate employment contract.

“Many employers are afraid that they must pay expensive hospital bills if they still employ a pregnant helper and the helper give birth,” Luna said. Whereas in fact, hospital

expense in Hong Kong is very cheap. The mothers who give birth only need to pay HK\$ 50 per day for accommodation. If the baby needs intensive care, hospital only charges HK\$ 100 per day.

Only one week needed for delivery by cesarean operation. For normal delivery it takes 2-3 days only. *"BMI must keep her employment visa in order to get those hospital facilities,"* Luna said.

80 PERCENT BMI

Luna said, in first of three months period in year 2013, as per January to March, PathFinders has received 53 foreign domestic helper clients who were pregnant, gave birth and have children. Client's composition is 45 Indonesian migrant workers, 6 Philippines migrant workers and 2 other country migrant workers.

"We have received more domestic helper clients. 80 percent from Indonesia," Luna said. Majority of them, 35 clients already overstayed. Total of 53 clients is only for mother, she said. If their babies are included total will be 173 clients. *"There are mothers with two babies,"* she said.

Luna also said, PathFinders clients, who are usually foreign domestic helpers continue to grow significantly every year. In year 2012, total clients have reached 541 mothers and babies. *"It has been growing by 50 percent compare to year 2011 with 366 mothers and babies,"* she said.

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PRINCE EDWARD - Jika Anda hamil saat bekerja sebagai pekerja rumah tangga (PRT) di Hong Kong, jangan panik dan takut. Hal penting yang harus Anda lakukan adalah mempertahankan visa kerja dan tetap berstatus penduduk Hong Kong.

Seruan itu disampaikan Chief Operations Officer PathFinders Luna Chan untuk buruh migran Indonesia (BMI), saat ditemui Apalabar Plus di kantornya di Prince Edward, baru-baru ini. "Jangan sampai terpaksa overstay, apalagi sengaja memilih overstay," ujarnya.

Agar tidak overstay, Luna mengingatkan, jangan sampai BMI



memutuskan (break) kontrak kerja, begitu mengetahui dirinya hamil. Dan, tetap menjaga agar jangan sampai diputus (di-terminate) kontrak kerjanya oleh majikan.

Luna menyarankan BMI yang hamil untuk segera datang ke kantor.

Jika tidak tahu harus berbuat apa, PathFinders akan mengupayakan agar kliennya tidak berstatus overstay saat hamil.

Di antaranya, dengan cara memediasi pekerja dan majikan sebelum terjadinya pemutusan kontrak kerja. "Kalau sudah overstay, sudah telat," kata Luna.

Ia menjelaskan, overstay di Hong Kong adalah kriminal. Dengan memilih atau terpaksa overstay, seseorang akan di blacklist dan tidak bisa bekerja lagi di Negeri Beton.

Mediasi yang dilakukan PathFinders sangat penting, karena pemutusan kontrak kerja oleh majikan begitu mengetahui pekerjaanya hamil terjadi karena banyak majikan tak mengerti aturan hukumnya. Mereka asal memutus kontrak kerja saja.

"Kebanyakan, majikan takut harus membayar mahal rumah sakit jika masih mempekerjakan pekerja hamil dan melahirkan," ujar Luna. Padahal, biaya rumah sakit di Hong Kong sangat murah. Si ibu yang melahirkan hanya membayar HK\$50 per hari untuk biaya menginap. Jika bayinya membutuhkan perawatan intensif, hanya dikenakan HK\$100 per hari.

Jika kelahiran bayi melalui operasi cesar, hanya membutuhkan waktu seminggu. Sedangkan jika bayi lahir normal, hanya 2-3 hari.

"BMI harus mempertahankan visa kerja, agar bisa mendapatkan fasilitas-fasilitas rumah sakit itu," kata Luna.

80 PERSEN BMI

Luna menyampaikan, pada periode tiga bulan pertama tahun 2013, per Januari-Maret, PathFinders menerima 53 klien pekerja asing yang hamil, melahirkan, dan mempunyai anak. Komposisinya, pekerja asal Indonesia 45 orang, Filipina 6 orang, dan negara lainnya 2 orang.

"Lebih banyak, kami menerima klien pekerja rumah tangga. Dari Indonesia 80 persen," kata Luna. Mayoritas, mereka sudah overstay, 35 orang. Jumlah 53 klien, tuturnya, hanya ibunya saja. Jika ditambah dengan bayinya, mencapai 173.

"Ada ibu dengan dua bayi," ujarnya.

Luna juga mengungkapkan, jumlah klien PathFinders yang umumnya PRT asing, terus bertambah secara signifikan setiap tahun. Untuk tahun 2012, jumlahnya mencapai 541 ibu dan bayi. "Meningkat 50 persen dibandingkan tahun 2011 yang jumlahnya 366 ibu dan bayi," ungkapnya.

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