



TRANSLATION OF SUARA NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

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For the sake of her child, an overstayed mother was willing to surrender

By Veby Mega

A former Philippine migrant worker who has overstayed for 20 years in Hong Kong, just call her Ate, was willing to surrender so that her child could be registered legally with the government of Hong Kong.

“It can be said that the Ate did that truly because of her love as a mother so that her child could be registered legally with the government of Hong Kong and gets a birth certificate therefore her child can go to school,” Case Manager of PathFinders Jessica Chow said on Monday (13/4/2015)

When this news was published the Ate was still in the prison whereas her child aged 14 years old has started to go to school. Ate will reunite with her child soon after she is released from prison.

Children from an overstayed mother will encounter difficulties to have a birth certificate in Hong Kong. This is because when reporting a child birth, status of the mother will automatically be known. However, Jessica still urged to overstayed mothers to bravely surrender themselves for the sake of their children.

“A child that does not have a birth certificate means that he or she has never been documented legally, that means he or she never exists legally. This will cause the children become vulnerable as victims of human trafficking and other crimes,” Jessica said.

Hong Kong was made surprised by Bianca Cousin’s incident in the beginning of April 2015. It was suspected as a suicide case of the 15 years old by jumping from an apartment of 12 floors in Repulse Bay. Bianca and her younger sister were born from a former Philippine migrant worker who overstayed. Their parents were not married therefore the status of Bianca and her sister were unclear and their birth have never been reported to the government of Hong Kong. Without a birth certificate, Bianca and her sister could not go to school or have a passport or HKID.

“If you are overstayed and have children, do not be afraid to surrender so that your children can have a birth certificate. Delay in reporting a child birth actually will only delay (inevitable) disasters,” Jessica said.

Demi anak, ibu overstay rela serahkan diri

Oleh **Veby Mega**

SEORANG mantan buruh migran Filipina yang *overstay* 20 tahun di Hong Kong, sebut saja Ate, rela menyerahkan diri semata agar anaknya dapat didaftarkan secara resmi di Pemerintah Hong Kong.

"Bisa dibilang, Ate melakukannya benar-benar atas dasar kasih seorang ibu, agar anaknya bisa didaftarkan ke Pemerintah Hong Kong dan punya akta kelahiran sehingga anaknya bisa sekolah," kata Jessica Chow, Manajer Kasus Pathfinders, Senin, (13/4/2015).

Ate saat berita ini diturunkan masih menjalani tahanan sementara sang anak, 14 tahun, sudah mulai bersekolah. Ate akan berkumpul kembali dengan anaknya segera setelah keluar dari penjara.

Anak dari ibu *overstay* akan kesulitan memiliki akta kelahiran di Hong Kong. Ini karena melaporkan kelahiran anak berarti status ibu otomatis ketahuan. Meski demikian, Jessica tetap menyarankan ibu *overstay* berani menyerahkan diri demi sang anak.

"Seorang anak yang tidak memiliki akta kelahiran berarti dia tidak pernah didokumentasikan resmi, yang artinya dia secara hukum tidak pernah ada. Ini membuat anak itu rawan jadi korban perdagangan manusia dan kejahatan



Blanca Cousins diduga bunuh diri.

lainnya," kata Jessica.

Awal April 2015, Hong Kong dikejutkan insiden Blanca Cousins, 15 tahun, yang diduga bunuh diri dengan melompat dari lantai 12 apartemen di Repulse Bay. Blanca dan adik perempuannya lahir dari mantan buruh migran Filipina *overstay*. Kedua orang tua mereka tidak menikah sehingga status Blanca dan adiknya tidak jelas dan kelahiran mereka tidak pernah dilaporkan ke Pemerintah Hong Kong. Tak punya akta lahir membuat Blanca dan adiknya tak bisa sekolah ataupun punya paspor atau HK ID.

"Kalau Anda *overstay* dan punya anak, jangan takut menyerahkan diri agar anak Anda dapat akta kelahiran. Menunda-nunda pelaporan kelahiran anak sebenarnya hanya menunda-menunda bencana," kata Jessica.*