



**Indonesian Migrant Workers Union**

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**STATEMENT**

**OF INDONESIAN MIGRANT WORKERS UNION (IMWU)  
ON THE REVIEW OF POLICY ON FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS  
(FDWs)  
ADDRESS TO PANEL ON MANPOWER**

Amidst confusions, sufferings, and pains, however we keep struggling against the levy and wage-cut.

A day after the chief secretary, Mr. Donald Tsang announced the levy for the employer and wage cut for the employee (27/2), IMWU and several other local support groups, including local unions (ADWU, CMR, AMC, MFA, and MRI) held a press conference stating that we absolutely protest against this undemocratic, discriminatory and unfair decision.

What a shame was that the Hong Kong government kept "stubborn". They didn't pay attention to the waves of demonstration staged by thousands of foreign Domestic Workers and local support groups. They kept carrying on their policy saying that "maids must bear the pain" because of the Hong Kong's economic crisis. What is supposed to be the reason behind it?

What a really shame! We, FDWs have great contributions to their economic development. They should have known that "Foreign Domestic Workers" could not bear this burden. Should they have known that we have huge contributions to Asia's fastest economic development.

In essence, IMWU condemns this twin policy - wage cut and the levy. As stated in the population policy report by Mr. Donald Tsang, the FDW's minimum allowable wage will be reduced by 11%. This in fact has violated the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 97 while the fact that HK has ratified that ILO Convention.

At this present, FDWs wage is HK\$3670 (after the first 1999 wage cut). The HK taxation law states that those who earn at least HK\$9,000 can only be charged with salary tax. Therefore, FDWs equivalent salary is only one third (1/3) of the minimum taxable wage.

Whether there is levy-wage-cut or not, this policy has burdened FDWs.  
Therefore, IMWU URGE TO STOP WAGE CUT AND LEVY NOW!



## Indonesian Migrant Workers Union

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Early in 70s, FDWs were sent to Hong Kong to be domestic worker. Now, it has been four decades for them to work and contribute the HKSAR government. It means our existence could not be brushed off.

Allow me to tell how the daily-lives of FDWs as domestic worker. We must get up early at 6:00 in the morning to start working and finishing their works at 12:00 p.m. It means, we work for about eighteen (18) hours non-stop working: Tidying up and cleaning the bed, car, bringing and taking care of the dog, washing the tea cups, prepare breakfast, washing, ironing and hang clothes, dishes, taking children to school, going to the market, preparing for lunch, dinner pick the children from school, cleaning the rubbish bin and many other things.

The question to be raised is: Who's doing the households works, tutoring and child minding, while families of Hong Kong must work to earn for a living: **Domestic Workers!**

Wage cut and levy would be effectively for the Indonesian Migrant Workers; There has been already 50% of Indonesian Workers being underpaid. They just only get their salary at HK\$1800 – HK\$ 2500. Imposing this policy make the Indonesian workers are more vulnerable saturations. In advance, the employers must pay levy to government HK\$ 9600. Nevertheless, we are really worried that this amount would be deducted from the salary of workers and most of them will get more underpaid.

We truly hope that the HKSAR government is willing to review the wage cut and levy to FDWs. We absolutely hope that HKSAR government would not bear the pain to FDWs.

Thank You.

Signed.

**INDONESIAN MIGRANT WORKERS UNION (IMWU)**