



กระทรวงแรงงาน

Ministry of Labour Presses Ahead on Removal of Thailand from ‘Tier2’ Watch List

Ministry of Labour presses ahead with cooperation with concerned parties, namely clothing, sugar, sugar cane, food processing, and fishery operators as well as police officials and Ministry of Labour’s officials in 22 coastal provinces, in solving human trafficking problem. It expects the situation to improve within three months, becomes good within six months and hopes Thailand will be removed from the U.S. ‘Tier 2’ watch list of the Trafficking in Person Report in one year.

Pol. Capt. Chalerm Ubamrung, Minister of Labour, said clothing, sugar, sugar cane, food processing, and fishery operators as well as police officials and officials from all Ministry of Labour’s agencies must work together to address human trafficking and narcotic problems to help Thailand remove from the U.S. ‘Tier 2’ watch list. He has discussed with Ms. Miraian Awad, Deputy Economic Counsellor at the U.S. Embassy in Thailand on solutions to the human trafficking problem and learned from her that Thailand is moving in the right way. If Thailand continues with its efforts, it will soon be removed from the watch list. Authorities, however, must work harder in solving the problem; so the U.S. realizes their efforts; and for the benefit of the people and the country.

Ministry of Labour has to follow up the human trafficking issue. Provincial chief labour officers are asked to provide information about local firms to local police officers so they can use them to inspect the problem. They also have to check employees’ employment contract. Mr. Adisorn Piengket, Advisor to Minister of Labour, has also been assigned to oversee political solutions to the problem while Pol. Gen. Panupong Singhara Na Ayudhya, Secretary to Minister of Labour, will be directly responsible in addressing the issue. Police officers have to check with local fishing vessels whether they have committed human trafficking crimes and obtain the results within 15 days. They must also work with local firms to stop human trafficking.

Pol. Capt. Chalerm said if all parties, including Ministry of Labour, firms, police officials, the Royal Thai Police work together in solving the problem, he expects the situation to improve within three months, becomes good within six months and hopes Thailand will be removed from the U.S. ‘Tier 2’ watch list of the Trafficking in Person Report in one year.

Pol. Maj-Gen Chatchawan Suksomjit, Advisor (Legal 9)/ Director of Children Women Family Protection and Human Trafficking Center said Thailand has long plagued with human trafficking but authorities seem to have different understandings about the issue. Human trafficking occurs when people are taken advantages of. Prostitution and labour abuse can be constituted as human trafficking. Migration to a third country is not human trafficking. Solutions to the problem require cooperation from all parties, including operators, and labour inspectors. They must report clues to local police officials so the problem can be addressed quickly.