

CHAPTER I

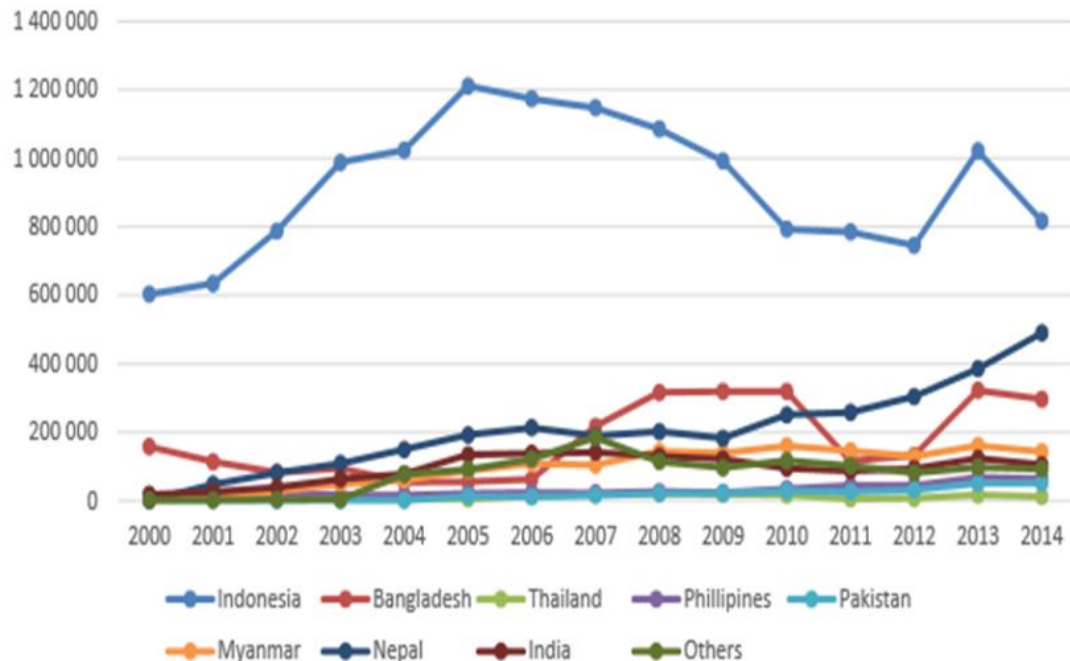
INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Malaysia is multi-ethnic nation consist of three main races living together namely Malays, Chinese and India (Richburg, Malaysia's Ethnic Chinese, Indians Fear Cultural Domination by Malays, 1987). Despite the fact that Malaysia has many ethnic and different cultures, they also have diversity in religion. Islam is the major religion with almost 60.4 percent of the population, Buddhism about 19.2, Christianity about 9.1, Hinduism about 6.3 percent, and 2.6 percent is traditional Chinese religions other or unknown 1.5 percent, and none 0.8 percent of the total population of Malaysia (Hays, Religion in Malaysia, 2015).

Immigration is the movement of people from one country to another country, through land, sea and air. Immigration also can be refers to the place where authorities check the documents of people entering a country. Malaysia is one of the destinations to migrant because a lot of ethnics there can live among each other peacefully and use English as Second Language (ESL) that make immigrant easy to communicate with Malaysian people. This multiculturalism of Malaysia can accept anybody those who want to migrate to Malaysia. They try to improve and get better life, as well as better job. Generally the migrants are refugees, however non-refugee

also interest to come although through legal or illegal ways. The majority of immigrants in Malaysia are from neighboring countries particularly based on ethnic and religion similarity with Malaysia culture.



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs (2015).

Figure 1 : Number of migrant workers in Malaysia by country of origin (2000-2014)

From the above figure depicts, mostly the migration flow in Malaysia from 2000 to 2014 was from Indonesia followed by Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, India, Phillipines, Pakistan and Thailand. Indonesia migrant workers since 2000 always increase, but in 2005 - 2012 the migrations flow slightly decreased, but regularly increase in 2013 and decrease in 2014. The most unstable trend of migrant workers is Bangladesh and Nepal followed by, Thailand, the Phillipines, Pakistan, Myanmar,

and India since 2011 both of them always increase except in 2014 Bangladesh slightly decrease (Harkins, 2016).

Sector	Year				
	1999	2002	2005	2008	2011
Maid	94,192 (23.0)	232,282 (22.0)	320,171 (17.6)	293,359 (14.2)	184,092 (11.7)
Manufacturing	155,277 (37.9)	323,299 (30.6)	581,379 (32.0)	728,867 (35.3)	580,820 (36.9)
Plantation	74,501 (18.2)	298,325 (28.2)	472,246 (26.0)	333,900 (16.2)	299,217 (19)
Construction	49,080 (12.0)	149,342 (14.1)	281,780 (15.5)	306,873 (14.9)	223,688 (14.2)
Services	36,610 (8.9)	64,281 (6.1)	159,662 (8.8)	211,630 (10.3)	132,919 (8.4)
Agriculture	na	na	na	186,967 (9.1)	152,325 (9.6)
Total	409,660 (100.0)	1,067,529 (100.0)	1,815,238 (100.0)	2,062,596 (100.0)	1,5730,61 (100.0)

(Source) Ministry of Home Affairs, Malaysia, 2008, 2011.

Figures 2 : Number of migrant workers in Malaysia by sector

Figures above demonstrates that majority of the migrant workers are manufacturing sector followed by, plantation sector, and the services and agriculture sectors.

Malaysia had faced immigrant problem in 1969, about racial issue between Chinese and Malays. In 2015, approximately 10.000 refugees from Rohingya refugees flew from Myanmar to Malaysia, which made the rise of labor issues became a serious challenge to Malaysian government. As a result, the Malaysian employers prefer to select migrant workers rather than local labors. This is because the migrant

workers are cheaper compared to local workers in terms of wages and conditions. The high demand on migrant workers made Malaysian job sectors was filled with high number of low-skilled, low-wage migrant workers. It means that 25% to 30% of the work force is composed of migrants workers. Local workers have also to compete with migrant workers for high income jobs. This is the fact that most of Malaysian middle class do not want to build their career in so called 3D (Dirty, Difficult, and Dangerous). As consequence, the 3D sector was dominated by migrant workers. The refugees and undocumented immigrant also contribute to the increase of sex workers industry in Malaysia (Keong, 2017) as well as human trafficking. A report reveals about 79 human trafficking cases in 2016 where 403 cases finally were sentenced in the court up to 2016 (Bakar, 2017).

In 2006 foreign workers in Malaysia responsible for around 5.000 criminal cases as government report (Hays, Foreign Workers in Malaysia, 2015). In 2014 Home Minister of Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi mentioned that almost 9.496 criminal cases involving foreigners. He also added that 2.306 of the cases involving the foreigners were related to serious crimes, such rape (138), unarmed gang robbery (1.008), armed gang robbery (108), murder (167), unarmed robbery (377), armed robbery (10) and causing hurt (498). While the rest of 7,190 cases were related to property crimes, namely theft (1.871), snatch theft (318), car-theft (568), heavy vehicle-theft (78), motorcycle-theft (1.252) and house break in (3.103) (SunDaily, 2014).

The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia Datuk Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi in 2013 said that, 19,056 foreign workers were caught because of criminal cases that accounted 12 per cent of the total 147,062 criminal cases in the Malaysia. Then until September 2014, 14,143 foreign workers were caught and their cases made up 14 per cent of the 97,393 cases reported (Bernama, 2014).

Economy factor also infected by the immigrants, the money that goes out to immigrants higher than the money that spent by immigrants that used in Malaysia. It will make inflation to the country because usually the immigrants sent their money to their family in home country. Ringgit value will decrease because of that.

B. Research Question

Based on the above background the main problem of this thesis is
“How has the Malaysian Policy to resolve migration problems?”

C. Theoretical Framework

To answer the research question, this thesis will employ securitization of migration concepts by Philippe Bourbeau.

The concept explains about movement of people and the system of order underpinning the movement. This concept is the application of security frameworks related to migration. This combination that emphasizes policy and defense come

from the process of discursively and institutionally integrating international migration.

Philippe Bourbeau argues there are two categories that evaluate the migration are securitized or not. The categories are institutional category that divided into three indicators that are legal, government policy and saliency indicator. The second category is indicators of securitized migration concern the security practices relating to the migration–security nexus.

First indicator, **institutional category** is legal indicator. Every country have own law system that have important role without exception including immigration. The law system should concede securitization of migration that deal with migration flows that possibly can be a threat to the country.

The second indicator from Bourbeau is government policy related to security, foreign affairs, and immigration. This is because immigration have strong relation with violence, terrorism trafficking, illegal migrant that can threat the country and causes of security problems.

The third indicator in institutional category is saliency. Saliency indicator is a connection between migration and the government policy. This indicator shows how strong the government policy to tackle migration issues or how the government join an organization or to get assistance from other countries to tackling the immigration issue that can be the serious security problem and threatened the stability of the country (Bourbeau, 2011). A migration scholar argues, that migration and security

were linked with immigrants and are more involved in criminal activities than “local” people (Virginie Guiraudon Joppke and Christian, 2001).

The second category is **indicators of securitized migration** concern on security practices related to connection between migration and security. This security action based on the securitization of migration. Security needs practices not only from policy and law. Philippe Bourbeau divided the indicators of securitized migration that concern in security practices in two that are interdiction and detention of immigrants. Interdiction is an activity that preventing the movement of people that in this case is to tightening the flow of migration by prohibiting, intercepting, and/or deflecting them. The detention is security action that will useful in the criminal, and violations cases by migrants. Detention will help to solve the issue by action with procedures and codes of conduct to tackling the issue (Bourbeau, 2011).

In this term of institutional category that divided into 3 indicators namely legal, government policy and saliency is implemented by Malaysia government to secure their country. Malaysia creates institutional to formulate a law, government policy and connect it with migration security policy. From second category Malaysia practices the laws that already created and make sure the law and policy have securitized the country. The author tends to use this concept because suitable with this thesis, concerning elements of securitization of migration in Malaysia. This concept will describe the process of securitization of immigration and the purpose establishing such law for immigrant.

D. Hypothesis

From the above background and concept, Malaysia Policies in solving the problem of migration are:

1. Malaysia securitized migration through tightening the immigration pathways by using biometric data.
2. Increasing institutional capacity of Malaysia through the development of detention house, infrastructure or structural organization for convincing social order.

E. Purpose of Research

The purpose of this research is to know the Malaysian Government's policy in solving problem of immigration

F. Scope of Research

In this research to make the data specific and to make not deviate and make easier to understand the issues and analyze, then the scope of this research are from 2000 until 2015. In 2000 until 2015 the immigration flow in Malaysia increased a lot, until made a chaos in Malaysia itself. Then the country should create a policy to solve the issues.

G. Methodology of Research

This qualitative research using library research through collecting the data from secondary resources such as journals, books, internet sites and newspapers. The collected data will focus on following topics namely Malaysian policy, immigrant, criminal cases that happened due to immigrant and political demography in Malaysia.

H. Outline

The outline of this research is as follows :

Chapter 1

This chapter describes the background of the issue, research question, theoretical framework, hypothesis , method of research, purpose of research and the outline of the research.

Chapter 2

This chapter describes the political demography in Malaysia especially on the history immigration to Malaysia.

Chapter 3

This chapter describes the dynamic, causes, and problems of migration in Malaysia.

Chapter 4

This chapter describes the Malaysia's Policy on migration issues.

Chapter 5

This chapter is conclusion chapter that consist of summary of the result if the research.