

DATE: **24th JANUARY 2015 (SATURDAY)**

MEDIA: **THE STAR – MADE TO PAY – PG.01**

THE STAR – MYEG CONFIDENT OF HANDLING MILLIONS OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS – PG.08

Made to pay

Getting an Indonesian maid is costing Malaysians a huge premium in agency fees compared to what employers in neighbouring countries are paying. And we will have to fork out even more since the visa fee for Indonesian workers here has shot up, say maid agencies. >See Page 4 for reports by P. ARUNA and DESIREE TRESA GASPER

Country	Item	Amount	
Malaysia	Levy	RM410	
	Service charge to Immigration Dept	RM125	
	PLKS Sticker	RM60	
	Fomema	RM190	
	Insurance	RM100	
	Miscellaneous (including agency fees, airport transfer etc)	RM3,000++	
	Overseas Recruitment Fee	RM9,000	
	Maid's loan / 6 months advance salary @300 per month	RM1,800	
Total payment is between			
		RM11,000 and RM18,000	
Singapore	Agency fee	RM1,206.68	
	Documentation fee	RM938.53	
	Placement fee - varies (deductible from maid's salary)		
	Insurance - starting from (depending on plan selected)	RM659.92	
	Total payment is		
			RM5,363 or below

*fees vary from agency to agency

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Court dismisses application

Estranged wife of tycoon Tan Sri Khoo Kay Peng fails to obtain a stay order against a High Court ruling. >3



Priority status for flood victims

Banks and insurance firms are doing their best to get flood victims back on their feet. >10

WORLD



Rihanna just having fun

Leonardo DiCaprio and Rihanna are not in love – they are just having fun. >42

STAR 2



Time for Osaka

Osaka is a charming blend of natural beauty and man-made marvels, tranquil parks and bustling malls, history and modernity. >2

Counter service back, but only until Feb 28

By **ZUHRIN AZAM AHMAD**
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PUTRAJAYA: Bosses can go back to renewing the work permits of their foreign workers at immigration counters but only until Feb 28.

This latest move came about following unhappiness expressed by employers and other groups, who had been forced to renew permits online via MyEG Services Bhd (MyEG) with an extra RM38 fee since Jan 5.

Immigration director-general Datuk Mustafa Ibrahim said the temporary reopening of the counters was to allow employers more time to familiarise themselves with MyEG.

"The counter service for foreign worker permits is now back. Employers can have the permits renewed at all offices that previously provided the service," he told reporters here yesterday.

The online service, said Mustafa, would proceed as usual, which meant that until Feb 28, the public would have two options.

"What will happen (to the counter service) after that will depend on the outcome of the concept," he said, adding that the time until Feb 28 was "the proof of concept" period to show the feasibility of the MyEG service.

Mustafa said that during this period, MyEG would carry out engage-

ment and road shows with employers and their associations to iron out teething problems.

There was no instruction by the Government to MyEG to review the service fee, he added.

During the temporary reopening period, employers, such as company directors, were also required to be present to have their biometric data recorded, said Mustafa.

"This is to ensure that the companies are legitimate and that the foreign workers are hired according to the sectors they are allowed.

"They must also provide an insurance guarantee for each foreign worker," he said.

Employers, said Mustafa, should familiarise themselves with the online MyEG service, adding that this was the way forward.

"Employers have told me – and I have seen it for myself – that some of them had to line up from as early 3am just to get the queue numbers to submit their forms at the counters.

"And there was still no guarantee that all processes could be settled on the same day," he said, adding that there were also employers who claimed to have been cheated by the agents they had engaged.

● **MyEG: We can handle millions of applications >8**

MyEG confident of handling millions of online applications

By **SIRA HABIBU** and **NEVILLE SYPKERMAN**
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PETALING JAYA: E-government service provider MyEG is confident of handling millions of online applications for foreign worker permit renewals.

MyEG Services Bhd executive director Datuk Raja Munir Shah Raja Mustapa said it was prepared to install a server with bigger capacity if the current system could not cope with the surge in volume.

"We can handle it. If the volume is too high, we need to only buy a bigger capacity server," he said in response to concerns that its system might not be able to cope with the sudden surge in volume if all employers were forced to apply for renewals online via MyEG.

Raja Munir Shah said before handling the renewal of permits for foreign workers, the company had been involved in online applications for foreign maids in the past two years.

"We have the experience to handle thousands of applications. We make the application for work permits easy and hassle-free because applicants need not waste hours standing in queue just to submit the forms.

"And we deliver the permits to their door-

step," Raja Munir Shah said.

On criticisms levelled against MyEG, he said that the public were entitled to their own opinion.

"We have a good track record. We have been in existence since 2000.

"We are certainly not a fly-by-night company. We are answerable to the shareholders of this public-listed company," he said.

The question of monopoly, he said, should not arise because MyEG was helping the Government analyse data on foreign workers.

"It is easier to analyse when all the data is channelled into a single database," he said.

The public has continued to voice their dissatisfaction over MyEG with retiree Pagee Khera, 59, claiming that an officer at the Sri Hartamas Immigration office took 90 minutes to complete her application.

"He had to try three times before the application was successful," said Pagee, a former lawyer.



iSnap me for a video on
"the proof of concept" period
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MEDIA: **THE STAR – COMPANY GIVES FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP AND MEDICINE – PG.10**

Company gives free medical check-up and medicine

EMPLOYEES from Unitab Medic Sdn Bhd took to the ground and visited a flood relief centre in Mentakab, Pahang recently to provide flood victims with free medical check-up and medicine.

The team was led by its senior vice-president (operations) Dr Kreeson Vengadeson, vice-president (X-ray quality control centre) Dr Christina Angeline Louis and medical officer Dr Hema Apanna.

They conducted primary healthcare services for about 400 victims housed in a relief centre in SK Batu Kapur, Mentakab.

The humanitarian initiative was a follow-up to the visit by Unitab chairman Tengku Abdullah Sultan Abu Bakar in Paloh

Inai, Pekan earlier this month.

The flood victims including children, senior citizens and the disabled were also provided with free medicine.

The doctors also briefed the flood victims about measures to be taken to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases as well as maintenance of good personal hygiene and oral hygiene.

The company also distributed toiletries including toothbrushes, soap, sanitiser, shampoo and shaver kits.

Dr Kreeson said the patients were found to have fungal infection, common flu, acute gastroenteritis, high blood pressure, diabetes and body ache.



Hygiene comes first: Dr Kreeson handing out bags of toiletries to the residents affected by the recent floods.