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# Employers

**Upset over sudden switch to online transactions which cost RM38 per application**

# CRY FOUL

BY **ASHWIN KUMAR**  
AND **ELLY FAZANIZA**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Employers are up in arms over the Immigration Department's implementation of the new online system for Foreign Workers Permit (PLKS) through MyEG, for which they have to pay RM38 per application.

Many who went to immigration offices yesterday found that counters handling PLKS were closed with a notice telling them to apply online instead.

Apparently, the immigration department had issued a statement on Friday to announce the closure of the counters and the introduction of the new system.

In the statement, Immigration Director-General Datuk Mustafa Ibrahim said the online system is aimed at reducing congestion at immigration counters which deal with foreign workers and to prevent employers from using middlemen.

However, many interviewed by *theSun* said they were not even aware of the switch until they saw the notices at the department's offices.

"Imagine the shock we had when we came today and saw the counters for foreign workers



**PARENTS' ANGUISH** ... Tan Chin Hin, the father of Shanghai stampede victim Tan Wei, holds a portrait of her while being accompanied by his wife Lee Siew Yan upon arrival yesterday at the KL International Airport from Shanghai to bring home the victim's body. In the New Year Eve celebration at Shanghai's Bund tourist strip, Tan Wei, a university student in Hangzhou, in China's Zhejiang province, was killed while another Malaysian student was injured in the stampede which took 36 lives. **REPORT ON PAGE 09**

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ZULFADHLI ZAKI/THE SI

A group of employers waiting for their turn to renew permits for their foreign workers at the Damansara Immigration Department in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

## 'Online system burden to employers'

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closed and being informed that we have to do the new and renewal applications online," said a restaurant owner, who wished to be identified only as Ibrahim.

He said while the online application may ease the congestion at the department, making employers pay RM38 per application is ridiculous.

A businessman, Rafiq, when met at the Damansara Immigration Department, said he was sceptical about the online system as not much

information has been disseminated.

"I am concerned as many of us depend on foreign labour. The department should have briefed employers on the new system instead of just implementing it," he said.

Malaysian Employers Federation executive director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan said the online application system is a burden to employers.

"Doing online application means it is done by employers directly whereas when it is done manually, they can seek

the assistance of various immigration agencies."

However, **IMRAN HILMY** reports that in Butterworth, some employers are responding positively to online service.

Factory owner Lee Lim Seng, 50, lauded the move as renewing the permits for his workers online means he does not have to join long queues at immigration offices anymore.

Businesswoman Asliza Abd Jalil, 51, was however worried that the move might be difficult for those who are not internet-savvy.