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Student visa terms for Indons relaxed

PENANG, Wed. - Student visa conditions for Indonesians to study in private colleges in Penang have been relaxed following an appeal by the State Gerakan.

As a result, Indonesians will be granted student visas upon submitting a letter of offer for placement in a private college registered with the Education Ministry, their international passports and four photographs with their applications.

State Gerakan Youth chairman Teng Chang Yeow said today student visa applicants from Indonesia would also be exempted from having to submit bank guarantees to the Immigration Department. Applications are to be made through the Immigration Department in Penang.

The concession is a boon for more than 1,000 children of Indonesians who had fled their country and various private colleges here which will benefit from improved business.

"It is not only good for the students and the colleges but also for the economy of the State and the country as a whole," said Teng who is also political secretary to Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

The concession was made known in a letter from immigration director-general Datuk Aseh Che Mat to State Education, Economic Planning and Information Committee chairman Dr Toh Kin Woon late last month.

It followed Toh's letter of appeal to Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad explaining the dilemma of many Indonesian students who faced difficulty in obtaining student visas from the Immigration Department because they left their country in a hurry.

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