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Raslan Loong is first Malaysian law firm to venture into Europe

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The corporate law firm of Raslan Loong has opened an office in Germany, believed to be the first Malaysian law firm to venture into Europe.

Its office is located in Mannheim, near Frankfurt.

This is Raslan Loong's second overseas office after it opened in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1995, also the first Malaysian firm to do so.

Its third overseas office is opens in Singapore in July.

All its overseas offices are in the name Raslan Loong, as required by a Bar Council ruling.

Its German office is in partnership with the German law firm of Reeg Rechtsanwälte.

The Partnering Agreement will be formally signed on Monday at a function in Munich, timed for the visit of a Malaysian delegation there led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Known for its corporate and finance work, Raslan Loong is among the first Malaysian law firms to venture abroad and remains one of the few to have taken this step.

There are only a handful of others who opened up overseas, among others, in Cambodia and Brunei. Several Malaysian lawyers also have a stake in Singapore law firms, but there are no branches of Malaysian firms in the republic.

German companies seeking advice on Malaysian law can deal with Raslan Loong's office in Germany, and Malaysian companies can obtain legal advice on German law via Raslan Loong, Kuala Lumpur.

The two firms have a lawyer exchange programme, and assist each other in developing a network of clients.

Raslan Loong's practice includes international work in areas like foreign offerings, acquisitions and due diligence, while Reeg Rechtsanwälte has expertise in emerging markets in Southeast Asia.

The issue of liberalising the Malaysian legal sector, and reciprocal rights for Malaysian firms to go abroad, has become a hot topic.

The Bar Council is now working on proposed guidelines to govern the entry of foreign lawyers.

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