

By : TAN SRI MOHD. SIDEK BIN HJ. HASSAN
KETUA SETIAUSAHA NEGARA
Venue : BANGUNAN PERDANA PUTRA, PUTRAJAYA
Date : 26/10/2007
Title : LAUNCHING OF THE GUIDEBOOK ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF EXPATRIATES:
PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

Assalamualaikum and good morning.

Welcome to the launching of the Guidebook on the Employment of Expatriates: Processes and Procedures.

2. This Guidebook is an initiative by PEMUDAH and is published in collaboration with the Implementation Coordination Unit, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Immigration Department and the agencies involved in the expatriate employment process, namely:

- Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA);
- Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC);
- Securities Commission;
- Bank Negara Malaysia; and
- Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation.

3. As you aware, PEMUDAH was established with the objective of facilitating business and improving the business climate in the country. Towards this end, the Task Force is undertaking various measures and initiatives, including enhancing collaboration between the public and private sectors in order to improve the service delivery.

4. In response to feedback provided by the Task Force, Government departments and agencies are working to streamline processes and procedures and make Government services more accessible to the members of the public. I need not underscore at all that the Government is serious in improving the ease of doing business.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The process of obtaining Expatriate passes involves different Government departments and agencies, depending on the sector one is operating in. How often have there been complaints about investors and employers not knowing which department to go to for such passes. The process can be daunting. But information is the key. Thus this Guidebook is published with the aim of providing a consolidated source of information to investors and employers on matters related to expatriate employment in Malaysia.

6. This Guidebook is the first publication which brings together the relevant information from the various agencies involved in the approval of expatriate posts and endorsement of employment passes.

7. This Guidebook is an example of the ongoing effort to make dealing with the Government a painless and seamless process. It covers information for all sectors including:

- Manufacturing and manufacturing-related services;
- Information technology;
- Finance, insurance and banking;
- Securities and futures market; and
- Other sectors comprising Education, Health, Tourism, Civil Aviation Services, and Sports.

8. In addition, the Guidebook also includes the process flow chart to help navigate the way through the processes involved.

9. In coming up with this Guidebook, the overarching objective was to facilitate and provide clarity and transparency. This is one step towards creating a friendlier business environment.

10. It is also aimed at informing members of the business community that they can handle the applications themselves. By making this information available, employers do not need to use third parties

to obtain the necessary approvals. This in itself can help to cut costs. In addition, the approval process for work passes for expatriates have also been shortened from a number of months previously to 7 working days now.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. As I mentioned earlier, this Guidebook is the collaborative effort of various Government agencies. I must add here that the whole process of review and streamlining of the processes involved consultation with the private sector. This is the way forward for all Government agencies and departments. I want to see this sort of collaboration replicated because this would mean more comprehensive planning and implementation of Government policies and initiatives as well as commitment towards implementation by all stakeholders.

12. Today we are distributing hard copies of this Guidebook. However, it will be made available on the PEMUDAH website right after the launch.

13. I hope the Guidebook on the Employment of Expatriates will be a useful reference for both local and foreign-owned companies. With that, I officially launch the Guidebook on the Employment of Expatriates: Processes and Procedures.

Thank you.