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JUST 8 DAYS TO HIRE A FOREIGN MAID

Process requires 9 simple steps, says Immigration D-G

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THE process of hiring foreign maids can soon be completed in eight days under the new On-line Maids System (SMO).

Immigration Department director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali said the system, developed and operated by the department, would come into effect on Monday.

He said previously, the maid-hiring process could take months or, in the case of some employers, even years.

He said through SMO, the registration process could be done in nine simple steps.

There are also conditions imposed on the maid to be hired.

"These first three steps, which involve the employers (refer to graphic), could take up to five days because of the Fomema process. However, we are now pushing for it to be completed in three days," he said.

"The final step will require employers and their maids to come to the department to have their biometric data recorded before

the PLKS is issued.

"Verification and approval by the department can take between three and five days if the documents and information needed are complete and valid.

"This shows that we are committed towards providing fast, accurate and cost-efficient service for the people," Mustafar said.

He said the fees borne by employers to hire a maid would be as low as RM1,635, including Foreign Workers' Medical Examination Monitoring Agency (Fomema) screening charges.

"This is cheaper compared with what employers used to pay to hire maids. The fees previously ranged between RM12,000 and RM18,000."

He said the new system allowed employers to hire maids who

were already in the country with a valid or expired social visit pass. However, a compound of RM900 would be charged in this case.

During the tabling of the 2018 Budget in October, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced that the government would allow employers to hire foreign domestic helpers directly from nine countries without hav-

ing to go through agents.

Mustafar said employers would need to comply with the requirements, procedures and cost set by source countries.

In addition, under the system, an employer can only hire one maid. Those who want to hire more maids will have to apply through conventional methods.

Mustafar said employers must also take up an insurance policy for their maids that must include accident, death and other medical aspects.

Employers, he said, should engage in a written work contract with their maids.

He said with this system, he hoped Malaysians, especially those in the Bottom 40 (B40) group, could hire maids at a lower price by eliminating agents' fees.

"This is what our government and the prime minister had envisioned for all Malaysians, regardless of their income status, to employ a maid. This will indirectly increase their productivity at work and the country's economy," he said yesterday.

For registration and information on the SMO, visit maid-online.imi.gov.my.



Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali

NINE-STEP PROCESS TO HIRE A FOREIGN MAID WITH SOCIAL VISIT PASS



STEPS INVOLVING EMPLOYER

1. Register for **Online Maids System (SMO)** account
2. Register **prospective maid**
3. Upload **Foreign Workers' Medical Examination Monitoring Agency (Fomema)** screening document

STEPS INVOLVING IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

4. **Submit application** and upload documents
5. Documents **go through verification process**
6. Department **gives approval**
7. Employer gets notification of application's result
8. Employer **makes online payment**
9. Department **prints Temporary Employment Visit Pass (PLKS)** and i-Kad for maid

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMPLOYER INCLUDE:






- **Must be Malaysian**
- **Must have children below the age of 15** (who need special care and attention)
- **Have disabled children** (no age limit)
- **Have a sick spouse**
- **Have sick family members** (employer's siblings and parents only)
- **Household income of between RM3,000 and RM5,000**, depending on the source country (see table below)
- **Is a single parent**
- **Is a single individual with valid reason** to hire a maid (eg. care for ageing or ill parents)
- **Is not bankrupt, blacklisted** by the Labour Department or **has unresolved cases** with Immigration Department

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FOREIGN MAID INCLUDE:

- **Aged between 21 and 45** at the time of application
- **A citizen** of one of the **nine source countries**
- Must not be on the **Immigration Department's suspect list or blacklist**
- Doesn't have an **active working pass**



MINIMUM HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR EMPLOYER TO HIRE FROM FOLLOWING SOURCE COUNTRIES

Source country	Total household income
 INDONESIA	RM3,000
 THE PHILIPPINES	RM5,000
 SRI LANKA	RM5,000
 THAILAND	RM3,000
 CAMBODIA	RM3,000
 INDIA	RM5,000
 LAOS	RM3,000
 VIETNAM	RM3,000
 NEPAL	RM5,000