



SPORTS
Extra Vroom

Promo girls added extra glamour to the Super GT as thousands thronged the Sepang International Circuit yesterday

▶ page 47

MONDAY JUNE 17, 2013

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PETALING JAYA

Foreign student uproar



- Master plan to streamline intake of foreign students hits snag
- Allegations of incompetence, monopoly involving one-stop centre
- Overseas students cry foul over delays in visa approval

By PEARL LEE AND HARESH DEOL
mmnews@mmail.com.my

▶ pages 3 and 4

No passport, no cash Pakistani student in quandry



GEORGE TOWN

No safety audit on ill-fated building

By A. SANGEETHA
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THE owner of the Menara Umno building, where a lightning arrester pole collapsed and killed an Indian national, had failed to submit an audit to the local council since it opened in 2001.

Tanjung MP Ng Wei Aik said the building audit for structure and safety reasons was due in 2011 but its owner, JKP Sdn Bhd, failed to submit the report, prompting the Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) to issue a notice.

He said that according to Section 75A of the Street, Building and Drainage Act 1974, the building owner was supposed to submit the audit periodically.

"After 10 years, the company is supposed to send the audit. Failure to do so can result in a fine of RM100,000 or five years' jail or both," he said.

"There is also a punitive fine of RM100 a day for every offending day."

Ng said JKP, a Finance Ministry incorporated company, was understood to have asked for an extension to submit the notice.

Earlier, Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya, who is also the Balik Pulau MP, described the incident as an "act of God".

Dr Hilmi, the Balik Pulau Umno division chief, said JKP was willing to conduct an investigation.

Ng chided Hilmi for his statement, saying that negligence could have contributed to the collapse of the pole.

"Dr Hilmi cannot say it is an act of God because it could have been avoided if JKP had submitted the audit report," he said.

JKP chief executive officer Datuk Adzmi Ariffin said he was unsure if his officers had submitted the audit as required by law.

"I am not too sure but allow me to check with my people on this," he said.

KUALA LUMPUR

'Dad, you rock'

IT is a scene repeated all over the world when fathers spend time with their families.

Suhairy Shuib, 31, is seen enjoying the antics of his three-year-old daughter, Sumaiyah Arisha, during an outing yesterday at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa to celebrate Father's Day.

— BERNAMApic



▶ More in pages 2 and 8

▶ Inside

NATIONAL

Killer stretch haunts motorists

Three good friends were killed in a crash along the Federal Highway that has claimed lives in the past

▶ page 10



OPINION

Stop lock-up tragedies

Terence says police have to stop being the bully just because it's convenient to close files

▶ page 15

BUSINESS

Safety key for Malindo Air

Its chief says carrier subject to stricter Malaysian standards, only indirect association with Lion Air's poor record

▶ page 19

LIFESTYLE

Sunway secret unveiled

Fifteen artisans from India took three years to create the tallest rajagopuram in Malaysia

▶ Centrespread





We come here to get quality education but EMGS is making it a bitter experience for us

KHADIJAH KHAN
PAKISTANI BACHELORS DEGREE HOLDER



NATIONAL

PETALING JAYA

Fresh allegations haunt one-stop centre

Failures of new system leave foreign students in the lurch

By PEARL LEE
and HARESH DEOL
mmnews@mmail.com.my

A MASTER plan to streamline the intake of foreign students has hit a snag following allegations of bureaucratic incompetence, mismanagement and monopoly surrounding the workings of the system.

Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), designed as a one-stop centre for foreign students wanting to study in Malaysia, has been receiving brickbats from foreign students and industry players since it began operations in February.

The intention to set up EMGS was to combat delays in student visa applications and to vet foreign students entering the country. It was also supposed to safeguard the interests of foreign students and private institutions.

However, *The Malay Mail* investigations revealed the new system had yet to solve previous problems and left foreign students in the lurch. Many claim they are clueless on the status of their visa applications.

Sources said the new sys-



ALL GEARED UP: Foreign students attending a dialogue session at HELP University College in 2010. Malaysia is listed among the world's most preferred study destination — FILEpic

tem required colleges to deal directly with EMGS on behalf of their students. In return, EMGS charged students for several services including RM1,000 as 'processing fee', RM250 for medical check-up and insurance schemes that ranged between RM500 to RM850.

The 38 EMGS appointed clinics fall under Qualitas Medical Group Sdn Bhd — either as an equity, affiliate

clinic or an associate clinic — while EMGS-appointed AXA Affin General Insurance Bhd as its sole insurance provider.

It has been reported that AXA Affin General Insurance was expected to earn up to RM42 million in gross premiums through the exclusive tie-up. The deal was secured through an open tender which saw AXA Affin competing against 13 other

insurance companies.

"We don't know how EMGS came up with the RM1,000 processing fee let alone why only selected clinics and one insurance company have been appointed to serve close to 100,000 foreign students," the source said.

Another source said this only applied to private colleges and not public universities.

"Why the double stan-

dards?" the source questioned.

"Despite the huge sum especially the 'processing fee', students are made to wait for months for their student visas and most often miss out on their intake.

"When we questioned EMGS over the delays, no answers were forthcoming," the source said.

Under the previous system, private institutions would

directly apply for student visas from the Immigration department on behalf of their foreign students.

The students were charged a nominal fee of between RM60 and RM100, depending on the applicant's country of origin.

"Foreign students were allowed to undergo medical checkups in their homeland while their institutions secured their insurance and medical cards.

Institutions were free to select their panel clinics and insurance companies," said a source.

In March, Yazid told *Malaysiakini* that the RM1,000 processing fee for a new foreign student visa was to relieve the government's burden of global efforts in marketing Malaysia.

He also said applications which EMGS had so far been processed within a 14-day time frame.

EMGS was not available for comment. Repeated attempts by *The Malay Mail* to get in touch with EMGS CEO Yazid Hamid via phone and emails went unanswered.

Attempts to contact Immigration director-general Datuk Alias Ahmad on the matter also proved futile.

Student: I'm being forced to leave country

FOREIGN students are crying foul over delays and alleged mismanagement involved in approving their student visas.

Pakistani Khadijah Khan is in a quandary as she is unsure if she would be able to continue her studies in Malaysia following delays in her student visa application.

Khadijah has been in Malaysia for the past five years and obtained her bachelors degree in Nilai University and later completed her MBA in Help University.

She now plans to pursue the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) course at FTMS College but is uncertain if she would be able to do so.

"I surrendered my passport to my college in April in order to apply for a student visa and my course is due to begin in the first week of

July," said Khadijah.

"After waiting for a long period, the college informed me that the Immigration Department had only issued a special pass instead of a student visa.

"I've already been issued with two special passes as at the time the Immigration Department received the visa application, my first special pass had already expired and now I've been issued with a second and final special pass.

"My college said EMGS will send my visa application along with the second pass to the Immigration Department for the student visa.

"However, I was informed 15 days ago that my second special pass will expire soon and I will need to leave the country before June 28."

The fiasco has left Khadijah in a lurch as she is unable to perform banking



FRUSTRATED: Khadijah has been without her passport for past three months

transactions without her passport.

"My parents are unable to send me money as without a passport I am unable to operate through Western Union.

"I've been without my passport for the past three months and I am unable to withdraw money from my

bank account. Due to this I've not been able to sit for the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) examinations."

She said there was a significant increase in visa applications but the quality of service rendered was questionable.

Khadijah said international students pay huge sums to EMGS but remain at the losing end.

"We come here to get quality education but EMGS is making it a bitter experience for us.

"I am being forced to leave the country while my course is going to start soon. EMGS and the Immigration Department are blaming each other for the delay while the students suffer.

"It is expensive to return to my country under such short notice. How do they expect me to go home without any

Tired of waiting, considering study elsewhere

ANOTHER foreign student, Illona, is still waiting for her visa following the application she submitted in December.

Having studied in Malaysia before, the Indonesian was surprised over delays forcing her to miss her earlier intake.

"The process was faster last year. I applied to study

"I was hoping to get into the May intake but recently I enquired about my visa status but was told to wait until August"

ILLONA
INDONESIAN FOREIGN
STUDENT

in another private college and was required to apply for a visa. I have been waiting for my visa since," said Illona.

"The Immigration Department claims they have changed the rules and because of that I couldn't join my new university in the first Jan-Feb intake.

"I was hoping to get into the May intake but recently I enquired about my visa status but was told to wait until August.

"I'm not the only one with this problem. Many of my friends in Indonesia have not obtained their student visas too."

Illona said she is tired of waiting and is considering studying elsewhere.

"I don't like the new system. A lot of students are reluctant to study in Malaysia because of false hope."

NATIONAL



PETALING JAYA

Fewer foreign students enrol in varsities

Local colleges suffer loss in income over student visa delay

ONE-STOP SETBACK: Private institutions of higher learning are seeing fewer enrolment of foreign students following the delay in issuing student visas

By PEARL LEE
and HARESH DEOL
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THE delay in approving foreign student visas has led to a lower number of overseas student enrolment in private institutions of higher learning in the country.

Administrators say the drop in figures has led to a loss in income and affected the private colleges' reputation.

A senior management staff of a local college, who requested anonymity, said the situation occurred after Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) was appointed by the then Higher Education Ministry to manage foreign students.

"We had 6,000 foreign students enrolling at our college annually. Usually, we would have had 1,000 foreign students by June but we only have 160 new foreign students this year," he said.

"When foreign students query us about the delays, we can't answer them as everything

now is being done by EMGS.

"We agreed to a one-stop centre at a meeting with the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) previously.

"But when the Higher Education Ministry called for a meeting last November, we were informed there would be a RM1,000 processing fee involved."

He claimed there was no mention of students being required to undergo medical check-ups at selected clinics, nor was there mention about the purchase of insurance packages from the EMGS-selected insurance companies during the meeting.

He said: "A circular was later sent by the ministry to colleges in January stating that EMGS would be responsible for handling foreign student intake.

"The responsibility of securing student visa was previously handled by colleges.

"We were also not tied to any insurance company and medical companies and there

was no requirement for students to undergo yearly medical screenings," he said.

However, the system by EMGS does not apply to foreign students seeking enrolment in public universities.

"Why the double standards?" asked another representative from a local college.

"We did a lot in the past to promote the country as an education hub for foreign students but how are we supposed to be a world-class centre for higher learning when we can't get the basics right," the representative said.

"It appears the plan had been bulldozed by the ministry without planning."

Many colleges, too, have embarked on expansion programmes based on projections but are now worried their business will be affected if EMGS continued to be inefficient.

"We not too clear how EMGS would promote and market the country as an education hub as such promotions were done by the colleges in the past," he said.



MORE FEES: Apart from the RM1,000 processing fee, foreign students are also required to undergo medical check-ups and buy insurance packages from selected companies.

EMGS set up to sell Malaysia as education hub

EDUCATION Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) was established by the Higher Education Ministry (now under the Education Ministry) with the primary objective of promoting Malaysia as a global education destination.

Among its objectives was to assist the ministry in implementing policies relating to students, carry out research in the field of education, provide marketing and awareness to promote Malaysia as an education hub. It was also to facilitate an efficient and transparent process for issuing and tracking student visas.

The Malay Mail learnt that

Scicom Bhd had been working on what is described as a "one of its kind" module for EMGS over the past two years after researching methods practised in other countries, including Australia and the US. The company won the bid in an open tender process.

Prior to the setting up of EMGS, the ministry held workshops with stakeholders, including representatives from private institutions. The Malay Mail was told no formal decisions were made then.

However, the ministry distributed a circular on Jan 23 informing private institutions that EMGS had been made a

guaranteed limited company on Jan 11, 2012 "to market and promote Malaysian education and to serve as a one-stop centre for foreign students".

The ministry subsequently sent an attachment of new regulations, including the RM1,000 processing fee and RM140 new international student pass fee, which have to be paid to EMGS.

The other regulations include:

- All local private institutions must use EMGS's Student Application and Registration System to renew the international student pass.

- Medical screening for foreign students must be done within seven working days upon their arrival in Malaysia for which they will be charged RM250.

The circular does not explain how the figure of RM1,000 for the processing fee came about. It also remains unclear why only selected clinics were involved in the medical screening of foreign students.

The directors of EMGS include company CEO Yazid Abd Hamid, Immigration department director-general Datuk Alias Ahmad and Education Performance and Delivery unit CEO Datuk Dr Rujhan Mustafa.

Institutions file judicial review application against government

THE Malaysian Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association of Private Educational Institutions, Berjaya University College of Hospitality and 52 others filed a judicial review application against the government on April 30.

In their suit, they named the Private Higher Educational Institutions Registrar General and Higher Education Minister as respondents.

They applied for an order to quash a circular dated Jan 23, 2012 that set additional conditions for the registration of international students.

The claimants, in their affidavit of support, stated that all private institutions were required to use the Student Applications and Registrations System (STARS) operated by Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS).

The applicants had claimed that the circular was ultra vires as it charged a levy in the form of the RM1,000 processing fee and created a monopoly by EMGS.

The High Court had on May 22 allowed the judicial review application and the case is scheduled to resume tomorrow.

BUSINESS
EPF expanding investment portfolio

Plans to also invest in robust healthcare, industrial sectors to ensure stable returns for depositors

▶ page 18

OPINION
FAM guilty party to thuggery

Frankie says the national body's move to reward a spectator who catches another for misbehaviour will destroy the beautiful game

▶ page 15

LIFESTYLE
Blockbuster of a win

Director Ghaz Abu Bakar takes home five awards for *Hantu Kapcai*

▶ page 23



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PETALING JAYA

Sickening mess

- Medical monopoly chokes foreign student intake
- Doctors say splitting profits against code of ethics
- MMA in the dark over scheme, GPs claim loss of income
- Foreign workers pay less than students for check-up



Help on the way for Khadijah



THE plight of Pakistani student Khadijah Khan, who has not been able to secure a student visa for more than three months, has caught the attention the Immigration Department.

Its director-general Datuk Alias Ahmad has pledged to look into her case after the matter was highlighted in *The Malay Mail* yesterday.

"Our department will have no problems issuing a visa to her if all documents are in order," Alias said.

Khadijah was glad over the news.

"I am thankful and grateful that my problem is being looked into," she said.

"I hope it will be solved soon. I am looking forward to continue my studies."

Khadijah, who has been in Malaysia for five years, said she planned to start her Chartered Institute of Management Accountants course in July but has not been able to secure a student visa since April.

She has been without her passport for the past three months after handing it to Education Malaysia Global Services through her college.

Khadijah was issued with two special passes but was informed she would have to leave the country by June 28 if her visa was not secured.

By PEARL LEE and HARESH DEOL
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▶ pages 3 and 4



GEORGE TOWN

Just mud will do, says wife

AS tears flowed in search of a closure, Lee Chai Song grabbed a handful of mud from the seat of the mangled car as a symbol of her husband's "body".

Lee — the wife of economy rice seller Lim Chin Aik — still harbours hope that his body would be found at the site of last week's freak storm tragedy. But hopes are diminishing as the clock ticked past 40 hours since the search began.

Married for 20 years, she was overhead

saying that since she could not get his body, the mud would do in order to conduct a prayer. As the search was finally called off, it now looks like Chin Aik's body would forever remain within the crater.

Earlier at 7.30am, the round-the-clock operation managed to unearth a large piece of the mud-covered car's mangled body.

• Continued on pg 5

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MMA had proposed that all GPs be given the opportunity to examine foreign students

DATUK DR N.K.S. THARMASEELAN
MMA PRESIDENT

PETALING JAYA

Profit-sharing fiasco



Medical profession reaping foul harvest of foreign student monopoly

By PEARL LEE
and HARESH DEOL
mmnews@mmail.com.my

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PETALING JAYA

Foreign student uproar



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▶ pages 3 and 4

No passport, no cash
Pakistani student in quandry



DR THARMASEELAN: MMA opposes monopoly

FLASHBACK: Our report yesterday

CLAIMS of profit-sharing between an Education Ministry-approved privatised one-stop company involved in foreign student intake and selected medical clinics have thrown a noble effort into disarray.

Apart from private institutions of higher learning reeling from the ministry's master plan to restructure intake of students from abroad, the medical profession is reaping the foul harvest of the foreign student monopoly, an investigation by *The Malay Mail* can reveal.

Foreign students are required to undergo a mandatory medical screening within seven days of their arrival in Malaysia. Should they fail the test they are allowed to appeal or will have to return home.

The focal point of the doctors' anger is that Education Malaysia Global Services (EGMS) has appointed 38 clinics — either owned or associated to Qualitas Medical Group Sdn Bhd — to do the medical screening for the foreign students.

It is alleged that from the medical check-up fee of RM250, RM180 goes to the clinic while the balance goes to a third party.

Doctors said splitting profits was against their code of ethics.

They questioned the rationale for the high RM250 fee as the screening of foreign workers under Fomema Sdn Bhd for foreign workers was RM180 for male workers and RM190 for females.

They said it did not make sense that foreign workers were paying less than students.

Several general practitioners (GPs) claimed the practice of monopoly was dysfunctional and triggered a cardiac arrest of their business.

The practitioners said they suffered loss of income

because of a monopoly enjoyed by the selected clinics doing medical screening for foreign students in the country.

Strangely, the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) is in the dark over the monopoly scheme.

MMA president Datuk Dr N.K.S. Tharmaseelan said the association was not officially informed by the government about the implementation of the new policy on medical screenings of foreign students.

"As the premier medical body in the country, we

have not been told officially about the implementation of this policy," he said.

"There were discussions on a medical examination for foreign students along the lines of the check-up for foreign workers.

"MMA had proposed that all GPs be given the opportunity to examine foreign students.

"We were under the impression that if the medical examination for students were to be implemented, it would be an open policy. Never was monopoly discussed."

Dr Tharmaseelan said the MMA will oppose monopoly in this area of medical examination.

"Monopoly is abhorred in any business, especially healthcare. GPs are already affected by the 1Malaysia clinics and this will further erode their business."

On claims of profit-sharing, he said: "This is a serious allegation. Under the Malaysian Medical Council code of ethics, it could be labelled as fee-splitting which is against the code of ethics and warrants disciplinary action."

'Clinics pay certain fee for being part of family'

ON claims of profit-sharing, Qualitas Medical Group Sdn Bhd says the company was unable to reveal such information as it is considered "confidential".

The firm's marketing and corporate communications manager, Yantie Ismail, asked *The Malay Mail* to refer the matter to EMGS instead.

She confirmed that Qualitas had been working with Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) since early this year to provide medical screening to foreign students.

She said there were three categories of clinics — equity, affiliate and associate — under the medical company.

"These clinics need to meet the set regulations and standard operating procedures before they can become part of Qualitas," she said.

"In return these clinics pay Qualitas a certain fee for being part of the family."

Doctors stand to lose RM15,000 a year

SEVERAL general practitioners (GPs) have claimed loss of income because of a monopoly enjoyed by several clinics offering medical screening for foreign students in the country.

Checks on the Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) website show a list of 38 clinics appointed to conduct the medical examinations.

All the clinics are either owned by or associated to Qualitas Medical Group Sdn Bhd.

"It is not fair. It's a monopoly and badly affects our income. Previously, students were allowed to go

any clinic of their choice but now they can only go to the clinics appointed by EGMS," said a Petaling Jaya-based doctor.

"Why isn't it an open door policy as before? More importantly, what is the MMA doing about this?"

Another doctor who offered medical screenings to foreign students said he stood to lose between RM10,000 and RM15,000 a year.

"It depends on the intake. If there are more students, the returns would be higher," the Nilai-based doctor said.

The doctor wondered if there was a "splitting of fee"

between the appointed clinics and the third party administrator.

"We hear that from the medical check-up fee of RM250, a sum of RM180 goes to the clinic while the balance goes to a third party. If this is true, this goes against our code of ethics," he said.

Several doctors also questioned the fee of RM250 as the screening of foreign workers under Fomema Sdn Bhd cost RM180 for male workers and RM190 for females.

"Workers pay less than students. Does this make any sense?" one doctor asked.

Problems plaguing one-stop centre

□ Students cry foul over alleged delays in approvals of student visas

□ Students and colleges baffled over RM1,000 "processing fee" charged by Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS)

□ Students required to pay more in application of visa, medical screening and insurance since EMGS came in the picture.

□ Delays and mismanagement tarnishing reputation of private colleges and the country

□ Industry players question monopoly of clinics and insurance company

□ Malaysian Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association of Private Educational Institutions and 52 others filed judicial review application against government on April 30 to quash a circular which makes it mandatory to use the services provided by EMGS.



PETALING JAYA

DG: No delays on our side

Immigration must process and approve visas within a week, says Alias

By PEARL LEE and HARESH DEOL
mmnews@mmail.com.my



ALIAS: As long as paper work is in order, no problem granting visas

THE Immigration department has refuted claims they had been slow in granting visas for foreign students.

Its director-general Datuk Alias Ahmad told *The Malay Mail* that his department's client charter states that all applications have to be processed and approved within seven working days.

Alias was responding to allegations by foreign students and private higher learning institutions that there were delays in the approval of student visas after Education Malaysia Global Services Sdn Bhd (EMGS) became the one-stop centre for foreign student intake.

He said his department received an average of 150 visa applications from EMGS and 300 applications from language centres daily.

"I admit there has been a delay this week and we are still in the midst of approv-

were a result of EMGS being inexperienced to handle the foreign student intake.

Alias said the intention of the government in setting up EMGS was noble as it was aimed at curbing the problems caused by third parties who previously charged up to RM10,000 to bring in a foreign student.

"Sometimes, the colleges were not aware that their names were being used by irresponsible third parties," he said.

"I can't speak on behalf of EMGS, but on our side, as long as the paper work is in order, we will have no problems granting visas. The department's role is to facilitate policies," he said.

"Sometimes, some of the documents are not in order...the names of the students do not match and this is where problems begin," he said.

Alias said the cost to apply for a student visa was RM60.

He also revealed that during a meeting with EMGS last week, it was decided

that foreign students from language centres would be required to apply for their visas through EMGS, unlike previously.

The Malay Mail had in a special report yesterday highlighted that there has been a dip in the number of overseas students enrolling in private colleges after EMGS took over the task in February this year.

Colleges said the drop in figures had led to a loss of income and affected their reputation.

EMGS was established by the Higher Education Ministry (now under the Education Ministry) with the objective of promoting Malaysia as a global education destination.

Local private colleges are now required to deal directly with EMGS on behalf of their students.

In return, EMGS charges students for several services including RM1,000 as 'processing fee', RM250 for medical check-up and insurance schemes that range between RM500 to RM850.

'Institutionalised abuse of power'

THE role played by Education Malaysia Global Services to streamline the intake of foreign students has been described as an 'institutionalised abuse of power' by an industry player.

Former president of the National Association of Private Educational Institutions of Malaysia Siva Ananthan, said the setting up of the one-stop centre was questionable.

He said the centre appeared to be making it difficult for private colleges to function.

"The one-stop centre is another bureaucratic institution that is intended to create a kind of monopoly and that is causing more problems for foreign students and private colleges.

This is an institutionalised abuse of power," said Siva.

"If the government is serious about developing Malaysia as an education hub, it should support private colleges in their efforts to expand Malaysian education overseas."

Siva, a veteran in the industry, said historically the relationship between the higher education ministry and private colleges could be described as a "police and criminal" relationship.

"This is because the ministry plays the role of policing and regulating private colleges. Colleges need to get accreditation from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency, an umbrella of the ministry in order to offer courses.

"However, some of the private colleges are functioning at standards which are better than some public universities.

"So, there is no need for the ministry or a private company to promote Malaysian education overseas as private colleges are capable of doing that."

He said in Singapore approvals were done within two weeks.

Foreign students have to submit their medical test results and other related



SIVA: Foreign students are being treated like maids

documents from their home country unlike the system being practised here.

Siva also commented on the mandatory medical screening that students have to undergo within seven days of arrival. He labelled it as "absurd".

"The foreign students are being treated like maids

although they are coming here to study.

"Why can't the students do their medical tests in their home country? Why can't they go to other medical centres in our country?"

"Is the government trying to say that other medical centres including established hospitals in our country are not on par with Qualitas Medical Group that now has the medical monopoly?"

"If the government is worried about the authenticity of the medical reports from overseas then the authorities should specify that only reports from certain medical centres be accepted," he said.

Siva however agreed that there have been rogue colleges in the past that offered services for foreign student visas for a hefty fee.

"The solution should not have been to set up a one-stop centre but to shut down rogue colleges and charge them in court," he said.

There is no need for the ministry or a private company to promote Malaysian education overseas

SIVA ANANTHAN

EX-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF MALAYSIA

Foreign students pay hefty fees

SINCE Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) started operations in February, foreign students wanting to study here have to pay several fees including processing fee of RM1,000, medical screenings and insurance.

According to EMGS student fees estimation tool on its website a foreigner will need to fork out between RM3,000 to RM5,000 pending the course duration, country of origin and the type of insurance scheme — silver being the lowest premium while platinum is the highest.

These fees are in addition to their tuition and examination fees, accommodation, transportation and other expenses.

We checked the estimation tool and found:

- A student from Indonesia intending to study in Malaysia for three years and wanting a silver health insurance premium has to pay a total of RM3,755.

- A student from China who will be here for three years and selects a gold insurance premium will pay RM4,550.

- A student from Libya, wanting to study for the same duration but opts for a platinum health insurance premium will need to fork out RM4,820.

- A student from India who wishes to study here for three years with a platinum insurance premium needs to set aside RM4,910.

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR
Multiple entry visa	RM 15.00	RM 15.00	RM 15.00
Student pass	RM 60.00	RM 60.00	RM 60.00
Medical checkup fee	RM 250.00	RM 250.00	RM 250.00
New student pass processing fee	RM 1,000.00	-	-
Student pass renewal processing fee	-	RM 140.00	RM 140.00
Health Insurance	RM 500.00	RM 500.00	RM 500.00
TOTAL	RM 1,825.00	RM 965.00	RM 965.00
Grand Total : RM 3,755.00 Back			

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR
Multiple entry visa	RM 30.00	RM 30.00	RM 30.00
Student pass	RM 60.00	RM 60.00	RM 60.00
Medical checkup fee	RM 250.00	RM 250.00	RM 250.00
New student pass processing fee	RM 1,000.00	-	-
Student pass renewal processing fee	-	RM 140.00	RM 140.00
Health Insurance	RM 750.00	RM 750.00	RM 750.00
TOTAL	RM 2,090.00	RM 1,230.00	RM 1,230.00
Grand Total : RM 4,550.00 Back			

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR
Multiple entry visa	RM 20.00	RM 20.00	RM 20.00
Student pass	RM 60.00	RM 60.00	RM 60.00
Medical checkup fee	RM 250.00	RM 250.00	RM 250.00
New student pass processing fee	RM 1,000.00	-	-
Student pass renewal processing fee	-	RM 140.00	RM 140.00
Health Insurance	RM 850.00	RM 850.00	RM 850.00
TOTAL	RM 2,180.00	RM 1,320.00	RM 1,320.00
Grand Total : RM 4,820.00 Back			

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR
Multiple entry visa	RM 50.00	RM 50.00	RM 50.00
Student pass	RM 60.00	RM 60.00	RM 60.00
Medical checkup fee	RM 250.00	RM 250.00	RM 250.00
New student pass processing fee	RM 1,000.00	-	-
Student pass renewal processing fee	-	RM 140.00	RM 140.00
Health Insurance	RM 850.00	RM 850.00	RM 850.00
TOTAL	RM 2,210.00	RM 1,350.00	RM 1,350.00
Grand Total : RM 4,910.00 Back			



PETALING JAYA



UGLY: Fans light up the stands with flares and firecrackers — Pic: RAZAK GHAZALI

Disgraceful!

- Police, FAM slammed for appalling security
- How did flares, firecrackers get into stadium?
- Will Fifa impose stiffer penalty on belligerent FAM?

By VIGNESHN KUMAR and T. VIGNESH
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Report on page 46

PETALING JAYA

Putrajaya response to



- Education Ministry to review foreign student registration
- Health Ministry deems medical monopoly unethical

Report on page 4

The ministry is currently reevaluating the EMGS' purpose and performance and will conclude our evaluation soon

P. KAMALANATHAN

DEPUTY EDUCATION AND HIGHER LEARNING MINISTER II

PETALING JAYA

Ministries to scrutinise EMGS

Role of one-stop centre for foreign student intake to be reassessed

By PEARL LEE and HARESH DEOL
mmnews@mmail.com.my

THE Education and Health Ministries have brought Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), the controversial one-stop centre which streamlines intake of foreign students studying in Malaysia, under scrutiny.

Deputy Education and Higher Learning Minister II P. Kamalanathan said his ministry will reassess the role played by EMGS.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, meanwhile, criticised the alleged monopoly awarded to Qualitas Medical Group Sdn Bhd to conduct health screenings for foreign students (see accompanying story).

Kamalanathan said his ministry is fully aware of the problems faced by foreign students and private institutions.

EMGS, which was established by the then higher learning ministry, started operations in February and was tasked to curb rogue foreign students from entering the country. It was also mandated by the government to market Malaysia as an education hub.

"The ministry is currently reevaluating the EMGS' purpose and performance and will conclude our evaluation soon," said Kamalanathan.

"All stakeholders should have been engaged before its formation and we are looking at ways to rectify the issue with a long-term solution."

Kamalanathan was responding to a series of articles highlighted in *The*

Malay Mail on June 17 regarding delays in visa approvals for foreign students enrolling into private colleges in Malaysia.

Several quarters have questioned the fees imposed by EMGS, including a RM1,000 "processing fee" for visa application and other charges such as RM250 for medical screenings limited to the 38 clinics under Qualitas.

Our special reports revealed a circular was sent to private institutions by the then higher learning ministry on Jan 23, setting new rules involving the in-

take of foreign students and the role of the EMGS.

This did not go down well with the institutions and the Malaysian Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association of Private Educational Institutions, Berjaya University College of Hospitality and 52 others filed a judicial review application against the government on April 30.

In their suit, they named the private higher educational institutions registrar general and the higher education minister as respondents.



KAMALANATHAN: Fully aware of the problems faced by foreign students and private institutions



SUBRAMANIAM: Criticised the alleged monopoly awarded to Qualitas

Qualitas monopoly slammed

THE alleged monopoly enjoyed by Qualitas Medical Group Sdn Bhd to screen foreign students has caught the attention of Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam.

Under EMGS regulations, foreign students are required to undergo a mandatory medical screening at only 38 clinics owned or associated to Qualitas within seven days of their arrival in the country at a charge of RM250.

Dr Subramaniam was not impressed with the deal.

"We must find out what is the rationale of them (EMGS) allowing such a monopoly. Monopoly and fee-splitting is medically and ethically wrong," Dr Subramaniam said.

"As far as I am concerned, they (EMGS) did not consult the (health) ministry. The concerned ministry (education ministry) must explain the rationale of the entire deal."

The Malay Mail had in our reports last week revealed that medical practitioners were up in arms against EMGS over allegations of monopoly enjoyed by Qualitas Medical Group Sdn Bhd and claims of fee-splitting.

EMGS chief executive officer Yazid Hamid admitted to *The Malay Mail* that RM200 is paid to Qualitas while the one-stop centre retains RM50 as administration fee.

General practitioners however, claimed the monopoly resulted in them losing business and questioned the fee-splitting between EMGS and Qualitas which they deemed unethical.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) are scheduled to meet EMGS representatives next month to discuss the issue.

MMA president Datuk Dr N.K.S. Tharmaseelan, who is in London at the moment, plans to meet with all parties concerned.

"Tentatively, we are set to meet EMGS on July 18," said Dr Tharmaseelan.

He had previously told *The Malay Mail* that MMA was not officially informed by the then higher education ministry about the implementation of the new policy on medical screenings involving foreign students.

MONDAY JUNE 17, 2013

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PETALING JAYA

Foreign student uproar

- Master plan to streamline intake of foreign students hits snag
- Allegations of incompetence, monopoly involving one-stop centre
- Overseas students cry foul over delays in visa approval

By PEARL LEE AND HARESH DEOL
mmnews@mmail.com.my

▶ pages 3 and 4



FLASHBACK: Our front page report on June 17 highlighting the plight of foreign students in the country

Treat foreign students right

FOUNDER and president of Lim Kok Wing University Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing said there is a need to build a proper eco-system for foreign students studying in Malaysia.

Commenting on the role played by Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), a one-stop centre facilitating the intake of foreign students in the country, Lim said students

must feel welcomed in Malaysia.

"Parents send their children to Malaysia after doing proper research. They send them here because they feel safe. Students here must feel welcomed and must be treated accordingly."

Lim (*pic*) said foreign students must not be treated like criminals as they are mini ambassadors of their



countries.
"Many of them like it here

because they like the culture and people. We should not make it difficult for them to study here."

"I'm sure you would want them to say nice things about Malaysia when they go back to their home country," he added.

Lim was commenting on delays in approvals of student visas faced by foreign students.

His university, compris-

ing 80 per cent of foreign students, has suffered a decline of around 500 students due to delays after EMGS took over the role of bringing in foreign students in February.

He said those running the show must have sufficient knowledge on how to deal with foreign students as many of them were genuine in furthering their education.