



SAUDI CABINET SIMPLIFIES REGULATION ON IQAMA TRANSFER

The Saudi Council of Ministers recently passed a law facilitating the transfer of jobs of people employed by operation, maintenance, catering and cleaning companies in government departments. Under the new rules, workers will now be allowed to renew residency visas after completion of their employment contract and can change their jobs to get better employment opportunities.

The Labor Ministry in Saudi Arabia will transfer the sponsorship of workers from previous government contractors to their new employers. The fees for their iqama (resident permit) and transfer of sponsorship shall be shouldered by the state government. If the new contractor does not require the workers, it can then opt to terminate and return them to their home countries.

The new employer should submit the application to the Saudi Labor Ministry. However, all available financial and administrative jobs are strictly restricted to Saudi locals only in accordance with the Kingdom's Saudization policy. The new regulation also stated that benefits and salaries of Saudi employees should not be less than what they received from their previous employer.