



MALAYSIA'S COMPULSORY MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICY FOR FOREIGN WORKERS

The Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia has reported that beginning January 2011, the Malaysian government will implement the compulsory medical insurance policy for foreign workers, except household service workers.

Under the new policy, employers are required to attach a copy of the medical insurance policy to the application for work permit of their prospective foreign workers. Employers of foreign workers, who are already in Malaysia, must submit a copy of the insurance policy upon renewal of their foreign workers' permits. The government of Malaysia has also appointed thirty-one (31) insurance companies to provide medical insurance services for foreign workers. However, the Malaysian government has yet to decide on who will shoulder the medical insurance premium.

The Malaysian Employers Federation has reacted to the policy and requested the government to reconsider the amount of the medical coverage from RM100,000 (US\$32,600) to RM50,000 (US\$16,300) for each worker. They argue that in some sectors (such as construction, services and manufacturing) where there is an estimated 1.5 million workers, the required medical insurance coverage is a big burden for the employers.

The compulsory medical insurance for foreign workers is part of Malaysia's Health Ministry's six (6) Entry Points Projects (EPP) which include the following:

- Establishment of a system for medical research development
- Promotion of health tourism
- Exportation of generic medicine
- Establishment of a network for diagnostic services; and
- Development of a health metropolis

Source: *Philippine Embassy
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

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