

# 'Resume Kuching-Pontianak flight route'

Jeremy Veno

**KUCHING:** Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuching Raden Sigit Witjaksono has called for the Kuching-Pontianak flight route to be reinstated soon.

He said having direct flights between the two cities would augur well for both countries, especially with the relocation of the Indonesian capital from Jakarta to Nusantara in East Kalimantan.

He pointed out that Indonesian President Joko Widodo is expected to declare Nusantara open on Aug 17 next year.

"Starting next year, about 16,000 individuals from the civil service and ministries will start to move to Nusantara from Jakarta," he said when witnessing the republic's 78th Independence Day celebration here yesterday.

"With the expected growth of Nusantara, it will create huge potential for both countries to work together," he said.

Currently, the only direct flight from Sarawak to Indonesia is from Kuching to Jakarta.

The Kuching-Kalimantan route was suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"So far, the only way to



The Indonesian flag is raised at the Consulate General to mark the republic's 78th Independence Day celebration. — Photo by Chimon Upon

Kalimantan from Sarawak is by land and we hope that this will soon improve to include air connectivity," Raden said.

He said both Malaysia and Indonesia can benefit economically and socially once the Indonesian capital has

completed its move from Jakarta to Nusantara.

"We have seen the participation of both countries supporting each other in events such as the Rainforest Music Festival here or the Java Jazz Festival in Indonesia," he said.

Raden said this reflected the close cooperation between both countries, which could be further strengthened with the development of Nusantara.

Touching on the Labour Recalibration Programme (RTK) 2.0 to regularise illegal immigrants in Sarawak as legal workers, Raden said the consulate-general fully supports the programme.

"Since the launch of the programme in July this year, we have already approved the applications for more than 800 companies," he said.

He explained that applications can be made at the consulate-general or during outreach programmes at selected plantations.

He pointed out all companies in Sarawak who employ Indonesian workers should apply for the programme as it will benefit the company, workers, and authorities.

"This is actually a win-win situation for all," he added.

Among those present at yesterday's celebration were Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts deputy ministers Datuk Snowdan Lawan and Datuk Sebastian Ting, as well as Kuching South mayor Datuk Wee Hong Seng.

# RTK 2.0: More than 800 applications received — Raden

**KUCHING:** Companies in Sarawak still hiring undocumented Indonesian workers are urged to submit applications to legalise their presence under the Labour Recalibration Programme 2.0 (RTK 2.0) before the year ends.

The Consul General of Indonesia in Kuching, Raden Sigit Witjaksono said the consulate general had so

far received more than 800 applications.

"We urge all companies that still employ undocumented workers from Indonesia to submit their applications immediately to facilitate the process for the benefit of all parties involved."

"We (Indonesia) welcome the RTK 2.0 programme, and apart from receiving the applications

at our consulate we are also conducting outreach initiatives at plantations to help facilitate the process for authorities in the state," he said when met after an event to celebrate Indonesia's 78th Independence Day here yesterday.

According to a statement issued by the Department of the Premier of Sarawak, the state government has agreed to

adopt the RTK 2.0 programme for the period between July 26 and Dec 31 to regularise illegal immigrants in the state as legal workers.

Employers in the 3D sector (dirty, dangerous and difficult) in the state can register their existing undocumented workers through the programme, it said.

Only illegal immigrants from 16 countries are eligible for the

RTK 2.0. They are Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, India, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China.

Further information on the programme can be obtained from the Malaysian Immigration Department's official portal at [www.imi.gov.my](http://www.imi.gov.my). — Bernama



Raden Sigit Witjaksono



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## Unemployed and Underemployed Graduates Get a Kickstart to Promising Careers upon completing Ekuinas' ILTIZAM Professional Development Programme (PDP)

Applications now open for 2024 intake, unemployed graduates from B40 Bumiputera communities are encouraged to apply.

Hiwani Hassan, Director of Stakeholders' Interest at Ekuinas explains, "Our PDP hones skills that are most critical in the working world. It makes us proud to see the transformation in our trainees each year as they launch their careers at Ekuinas or our partner companies. The 12-month on-the-job training, coupled with structured classroom and online training modules builds essential soft skills and meaningful work-related experience, which increases employability and competitiveness of trainees for the professional job market. Each Graduate Associate, as we call them, is also mentored throughout the programme. We get to know each and every one of them and the relationship extends well beyond the programme."

"We formalised the ILTIZAM PDP alumni network earlier this year, this adds immense value to PDP Graduate Associates and the 582 alumnus at large, as there are work, business and networking opportunities to tap on. For this year itself, we have had 3 networking sessions for the Sabah and Sarawak alumnus, in Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur. Our alumnus are across Malaysia, leading successful careers in esteemed private organisations, government-linked companies, a few are in Government service and some are entrepreneurs," Hiwani added.

The PDP combines an intense 12-month on-the-job training at Ekuinas or its partner companies and specific development modules such as business and management skills, personal leadership development, English lessons, communications and presentation, financial and business acumen, one-on-one coaching and mentoring. Throughout the programme, trainees receive a monthly salary of RM2,500 per month as well as EPF and SOCSO contributions, insurance and medical benefits.

In 2022, 97% of PDP trainees secured permanent jobs within 6 months after completing the programme; the trainees have either successfully continued to be employed at Ekuinas, our partner companies or found employment in other leading local and global companies," Hiwani said.

Rita Paramitasari Nazalya Bt Dahri, a PDP graduate from batch 2021 who hails from Kabong in the district of Betong, Sarawak, notes that the on-the-job training contributed significantly to her personal and professional development. "Despite being a trainee, I have always felt like a valued part of the team, I was treated as an integral member included in all relevant events and discussions. This has made me feel comfortable and engaged in the workplace."

"The personal mentorship provided has been a game-changer for my career. I received valuable guidance from mentors, and their support continues to be an essential resource. Even now, two years after completing the programme, I still seek their advice and learn from their experience, just like they always say at ILTIZAM, 'Ando akan meninggalkan PDP, tetapi PDP tidak akan meninggalkan anda'."

When asked about the key takeaway from the programme, Rita concluded, "My biggest takeaway was the change in my mindset. I was more self-aware, learning what is truly beneficial for my personal growth. Embracing the concept of continuous growth, I overcame the fear of making mistakes. Instead, I view them as opportunities to learn and evolve into a better version of myself. This new-found perspective has had a significant impact not only on me but also on those around me. I learnt to be versatile and adaptable and pursued a career different from my degree."

Rita who graduated with a degree in Aquatic Resource Science & Management from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak in 2019 is currently employed as a Customer Service Executive at AmBank Berhad.

Jayson Jason Bin Japary from Keningau, Sabah graduated from Universiti Malaysia Sabah with a degree in Visual Arts and is a PDP alumnus from batch 2017. Jayson recalls his placement at Cosmopoint College Sabah for the 12-month on-the-job training as an eye-opener

## They Have Attained Successful Careers. YOU CAN TOO.



**Are you unemployed, enthusiastic about enhancing your skill set and passionate about kickstarting your career? Join the ILTIZAM Professional Development Programme (PDP) 2024 by Ekuinas.**

<b>12-month On-the-Job Training</b> Structured modules for soft skills, technical competencies, leadership and personal development to ensure increased employability and marketability	<b>RM2,500 Monthly Salary</b> EPF & SOCSO contributions, medical benefits and insurance	<b>97% Success Rate</b> 97% of participants in PDP 2022 secured permanent jobs within 6 months after completing the programme
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on critical aspects of the workplace, operations and personal performance. I was placed on a 3-month rotation which first involved administration and procurement, then marketing where I was assigned to work on product advertising. Finally, I was exposed to academic and student services. This gave me a comprehensive view of the company and its operations and challenged my ability to quickly adapt, learn and engage with internal teams and external vendors. I learned to work outside my field of studies.

"Of the many training modules, I found the course on techniques for an interview session most impactful. I received several job offers after completing the PDP which I attribute to the techniques I learnt in preparing and communicating at an interview. Now that I have joined the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM), I realise that similar techniques are also used in PDRM for interviews related to upgrading and promotions.

"My biggest takeaway from the programme is that it completely changed the way I see the world of work. Previously I only thought of work as a means of getting an income. After PDP, I see the working world as a platform to continuously improve myself and equally important, to give back to society. My current position as a Police Inspector, Platoon Commander to be exact, allows me to do just that. I am happy to have come this far."

"The PDP programme aims to assist Bumiputera graduates in catapulting their careers and becoming role models for their communities and peers. The programme curriculum is reviewed periodically for relevance and impact. We aim to nurture well-rounded individuals who are resilient, motivated and passionate. We also focus on developing their communication and leadership skills in order to enhance their competitiveness in today's challenging work environment. The programme serves as a finishing school after they complete their higher education," Hiwani added.

Application for the ILTIZAM PDP intake 2024 is now open until 30 September 2023. Applications can be submitted online at <https://iltizam.ekuinass.com.my/pillars/education/pdp/>.

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