

## **25/10/2011 – Speech by Chief Secretary on i-PASS Issuance to Resident Pass Holders**

**Bismillaahir rahmaanir rahim  
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakaatuh,**

**Members of PEMUDAH,**

**Recipients of i-Pass,**

**Members of Media,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Salam 1Malaysia.**

**A very good afternoon,**

**Parameters that drive competitive business environment have drastically changed today. With the changing dynamics of economies globally today, we are witnessing movement of talents, especially high skilled talents, across borders and companies easier than ever before. The challenge for any country is in attracting and retaining the best of talents and the best of companies into its market.**

**Malaysia is on path to rapid economic transformation to realise its next stable of potential. To do this effectively we simply require diverse pool of good talents, foreign and local the same. In support of this, the Government of Malaysia introduced the i-Kad in 1998 to ease the movement of top foreign talents in the country. The functions of the i-Kad were however quite limiting. The security features of i-Kad was also restrictive.**

**The immigration Department, through the many engagements with the expatriate community working and living here started phasing out the i-Kad in 2010. It enhanced the features of the i-Kad to the current MyKad issued to all Malaysians.**

**One of the features of i-Pass is its Quick Response Code which when scanned with a smartphone is able to display the details of the i-Pass holders. This allows for the card to be used as an identification tool in lieu of their passport. The newly enhanced i-Pass was rolled in September 2011 to workers with Employment Passes issued by the Immigration Department.**

**We are now extending the i-Pass to Residence Pass holders. The Residence Pass, for your information, is a new immigration instrument, which offers a ten-year renewable pass for highly-qualified expatriates to continue to reside and work in Malaysia whilst an Employment pass has a maximum tenure of five-years. Further, the Residence Pass provides greater flexibility as it is personal to holder and does not tie the holder to a specific employer.**

**The Residence Pass will also be issued to the spouse and children below 18 years old of successful applicants. This will enable the spouse of successful applicants to work in Malaysia as well. The parents, parents' in-law and dependents aged 18 years and above of Resident Pass holders will be eligible to apply for a five-year Social Visit Pass.**

**Once approved a Residence Pass, the applicant will be issued an i-Pass automatically by the Immigration Department. Holders of the i-Pass no longer need to carry their passports as forms of identification within Malaysia. They are also exempted from filling up the embarking card when entering Malaysia. Their passports will not need to be manually stamped at immigration counters when entering and departing the country.**

**The enhanced i-Pass will be issued to all expatriates working in Malaysia, including their immediate families and domestic helpers. It will be colour-coded according to the categories and provided free of charge to the estimated 90,000 expatriate community in the country.**

**We have approved over 30 i-Passes for Resident Pass holders. I have great pleasure in witnessing the award of new i-Pass to 11 Residence Pass holders today personally.**

**I hope this initiative will attract more high skilled foreign talent into Malaysia.**

**I thank you for being here today. We will be happy to take questions media might have and also I would encourage the media to speak to the recipients of the Pass.**

**Wabillahittaufik walhidayah**

**Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakaatuh.**