



## Immigration GES Alert

### Malaysia – Use of Xpats Gateway for Employment Pass (EP) Applications via MDEC

#### What is the change?

The Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) has announced that effective 24 April 2024, all new and renewal applications for Employment Pass (EP) under the purview of MDEC must be submitted through Xpats Gateway.

As a refresher, Xpats Gateway is a single-window system for Support Letter applications to various approving agencies/regulatory bodies, announced by Malaysia's Minister of Economy on 31 May 2023 and launched 15 June 2023. As current practice, the Support Letter is uploaded during the EP application in the Expatriate Services Division (ESD) portal for a final decision by the Malaysian immigration authority.

However, MDEC's use of the Xpats Gateway portal differs slightly:

- All new and renewal EP applications must be submitted via Xpats Gateway. The login ID and password used to login on MDEC's eXpat portal can also be used to login on Xpats Gateway. If the company's account is accessible via multiple login IDs, these can also be used on the eXpat portal.

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- The applicant populates basic personal information first on the Xpats Gateway portal, before the application is routed to MDEC for the rest of the application to be completed.
  - The processing time and fees remain unchanged. Once the company pays the processing fee, MDEC will review the application accordingly.
  - Once the EP approval is obtained via Xpats Gateway, there is no need to lodge a separate EP application on the eXpat portal.
  - For EP (new or renewal) applicants with dependents, the Dependent's Pass (DP) application will still need to be submitted directly on the eXpat portal. The DP application can be lodged once the EP application has been lodged via Xpats Gateway.
  - All other immigration applications (i.e.: DP applied with or separate from EP applicant, Transfer of Endorsement, cancellation, etc.) are to be lodged directly on the eXpats portal.

For the official announcement, please refer to [the MDEC portal](#).

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## **Deloitte's view**

MDEC's onboarding on Xpats Gateway is in line with the Malaysian government's efforts to standardise the support mechanism of all approving agencies/regulatory bodies into a single platform. Previously, companies registered with MDEC under Malaysia Digital (MD) or ICT status did not require any additional approving agency support mechanism given that MDEC's eXpat portal is already integrated with the Malaysian immigration authority's system.

Despite the change, companies under MDEC purview can still expect a streamlined approach on the standard EP process as a single platform is still being used (i.e.: Xpats Gateway, instead of the MDEC portal).

As there is currently limited information on the new process, further updates will be shared once MDEC has provided more information (i.e.: on EP processes involving changes of employer, EP category, pass, etc.)

## Contacts

If you have any questions or clarifications for the above, please contact our Global Employer Services (GES) team leads below.

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