



ੴ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫਤਿਹ ॥
ਮਲੇਸ਼ੀਅਨ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੌਂਸਲ



MAJLIS GURDWARA MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN GURDWARAS COUNCIL

No.7A, Jalan Haji Salleh Sentul, 51100 Kuala Lumpur

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Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays Closed

Date: 06th Jul 2021

Ref: MGC/OF/282/05(04-21)

To: ALL GURDWARAS
PRESIDENT,
GURDWARA SAHIB

.....

Sardar Ji / Sardarni Jio,

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Subject: Shortage of Granthis/Musicians in Gurdwaras

1. The Malaysian Gurdwaras Council (MGC) is aware that some Gurdwaras are having difficulties during this Covid-19 period in finding replacement for Granthis & Musicians who have left or are in the process of leaving.
2. A few members have made following suggestions to overcome the present problem:
 - (a) Difficulty in getting Granthis who are above 40 years old. Thus, they want the age for eligibility to be Granthi to be reduced.
 - (b) To get approval for plantation permit holders and illegals to be appointed as Granthis.
3. As regards number 2(a) above members must be aware that the said conditions apply to all religions. Despite this, MGC had made various attempts in the past to have the present age requirement of Granthi 40 years and Musician 35 years to be reduced to 30 years for both. Some of the attempts made were:
 - (i) Submitted a 7 page memorandum to Ketua Pengarah Imigresen dated 26/10/2006 requesting reducing age of Granthi/Musician, allowing them

to bring their families, simplifying procedure for applying Visas for Granthi/Musicians where presently have to submit more than 15 forms, etc.

Had a follow-up meeting with the Ketua Pengarah. DG said it applies to all religions and reducing age may create social problems as had happened in some cases.

- (ii) Submitted a similar memorandum dated 14/07/2009 to YB Dato' Mahmud Bin Adam, Ketua Setiausaha, Kementerian Dalam Negeri. Followed up by meeting with the KSU of the Ministry.
- (iii) Submitted a similar Memorandum dated 11/08/2010 to YB Dato Seri Hishamuddin Tun Hussain, Menteri Dalam Negeri. Similar outcome as earlier applications.
- (iv) Had met DG of Immigration for a second time in 2011. It was the same answer and the DG informed about the conditions again. On our request he gave a copy of the conditions which were in force since 4/9/2008 and which were "Sulit". This is attached as Exhibit-A. For Hindus, there is an extra condition for their Sami & Pemuzik to undergo a compulsory "Induksi" course.
- (v) Submitted further memorandum re Granthis/Musician issue dated 18th October 2013 to YB Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. Similarly told that conditions apply to all religions including Hindu, Taoist, Buddhists, Christians and Muslims.
- (vi) Through contact submitted a fresh 6 pages memorandum dated 9/11/2015 to YAB Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Timbalan Perdana Menteri dan Menteri Dalam Negeri. It was submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister personally in December where the Deputy Prime Minister minuted:
"PUU (KDN)
Sila bincang dengan saya
Signed
(Dy PM)
23/12/2015"
- (vii) As a follow-up to MGC above memorandum mentioned at 3(vi) above, the Deputy Prime Minister YAB Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was invited to a High-Tea at Gurdwara Sahib Sentul on 14/04/2016. At the High-Tea I had reminded the YAB Deputy Prime Minister that MGC

was hoping that the MGC Memorandum dated 9/11/2015 would be favourably considered and approval given. The Deputy Prime Minister replied that the conditions were applicable to all religions and that he had referred matter to legal department for comments as it involved government Policy.

Note: First page of letter dated 9/11/2015 submitting Memorandum to YAB Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi is enclosed as Exhibit-B.

- (viii) Had met YB Gobind Singh Deo in his office around middle of year 2019 and sought his assistance regarding Granthi/Musician issue and handed to him copy of earlier memorandum. YB Gobind Singh Deo promised to take up issue with the Home Minister. About 3-4 months later YB had replied to say that the present conditions for Granthis/Musicians were approved by cabinet. Any changes will have to be tabled by the Home Minister at cabinet meeting for approval. YB further had said that if there were problems with individual applications, then to bring the applications to him and he would meet the Home Minister for approval.

4. The following requests were made in MGC Memorandum dated 9th Nov 2015:

- (a) Tempoh Permit bagi seorang Granthi dan Pemuzik hendaklah dilanjutkan dari 3 tahun ke 5 tahun.
- (b) Mengubah dan menurunkan had umur pemohon daripada 40 tahun (Granthi) dan 35 tahun (pemuzik) kepada 30 tahun.
- (c) Membenarkan isteri dan anak pemohon yang berumur kurang dari 21 tahun untuk Bersama-sama menyertai Mubaligh Sikh (Granthi) dan ahli Muzik yang bakal akan datang keMalaysia.
- (d) Meminta satu kuota 100 permit untuk menyelesaikan masalah terkini kekurangan ahli Muzik dan Mubaligh Sikh (Granthi) di Gurdwara-Gurdwara di Malaysia.
- (e) Kebenaran Permit Sementara selama 3 bulan untuk menelitikan tahap keupayaan dan profesionalism sebelum meluluskan permohonan Pekerjaan Mubaligh Sikh dan ahli Muzik.
- (f) Membenarkan pengambilan pembantu Gurdwara (skilled religious cooks) dari India dan diberi permit 5 tahun.

5. Thus, as members have been briefed earlier a few times, various attempts have been made earlier to ease Granthi/Musician issues. It involves Government

Policy and would need cabinet approval for any changes to present conditions in force. Same conditions apply to all religions.

6. Now number 2(ii) considered.

What is proposed here is illegal and against Government Policy and Malaysian Laws. One cannot use Covid-19 situation to get plantation workers to be employed as Granthi legally. The question of illegals is worse. They are at present being deported by the thousands. Thus, this proposal is untenable.

7. Conclusion

Due to Covid-19 situation travel between countries is severely curtailed. Even new Granthis/Musicians are not allowed to come in yet. Thus, to overcome present problem, the following are suggested:

- (i) Those Granthis/Musicians whose Visa of Maximum 3 years is expiring, can submit application to MGC for further extension of Visa beyond 3 years.
- (ii) To try and obtain services of locals to do voluntary Sewa or be employed for a short period. This is a temporary stop gap measure.
- (iii) Those who have completed say 2 years and want to go back, impress on them to stay for another year as even going back is restricted at the moment.

Dhanwad

Jagir Singh
President

Malaysian Gurdwaras Council

EXHIBIT-A

SYARAT – SYARAT PERMOHONAN

- 3.1 Permohonan Pas Lawatan Ikhtisas Sami Hindu, Granthi, Paderi, Guru Dharma, Pemuzik dan Pengukir keagamaan adalah tertakluk kepada syarat – syarat berikut:

~~3.1.1~~ tempoh maksimum yang dibenarkan adalah selama tiga (3) tahun sahaja. Tempoh maksimum ini juga terpakai kepada kelulusan lama yang telah diluluskan oleh Jawatankuasa Khas Pas Lawatan Ikhtisas.

3.1.2 memenuhi syarat umur seperti berikut:

- 3.1.2.1 40 tahun ke atas bagi Sami Hindu, Granthi, Guru Dharma dan Paderi;
- 3.1.2.2 35 tahun ke atas bagi pemuzik keagamaan;
- 3.1.2.3 30 tahun ke atas bagi pengukir keagamaan.

3.1.3 semua permohonan untuk sami-sami Hindu (semua warganegara) diwajibkan mendapat sokongan wakil komuniti India yang menganggotai kabinet Malaysia semasa setelah mendapat sokongan daripada Malaysia Hindu Sanggam;

3.1.4 semua Sami Hindu perlu mempunyai sijil kelayakan keagamaan dari institusi / akademi yang diiktiraf dan disahkan oleh Y.B Menteri Sumber Manusia;

3.1.5 semua Sami Hindu, Pemuzik dan Pengukir keagamaan Hindu yang diluluskan Pas Lawatan Ikhtisas perlu menghadiri kursus jangka pendek (induksi) mengenai budaya, peraturan, undang-undang dan sensitiviti rakyat negara ini. Kursus ini akan diatur oleh Kementerian Sumber Manusia;

EFFECTIVE : 4/9/2008

EXHIBIT-B



ੴ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫਤਿਹ

ਮਲੇਸ਼ੀਅਨ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੌਂਸਲ

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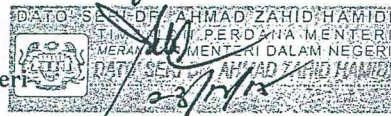


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09hb. November, 2015

Y.A.B. Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi
Timbalan Perdana Menteri Dan Menteri Dalam Negeri
Kementerian Dalam Negeri
Aras 12, Blok D Parcel D,
Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan
62546 PUTRAJAYA



Dengan Tangan

Y.A.B. Datuk Seri,

Per: Permohonan pelonggaran syarat bagi membawa Granthi & Pemusik untuk berkhidmat di Malaysia

Dengan segala hormatnya kami merujuk kepada perkara yang tersebut diatas.

Bersama-sama ini kami lampirkan MEMORANDUM daripada pihak Majlis kami bagi timbangan Y.A.B. Datuk Seri.

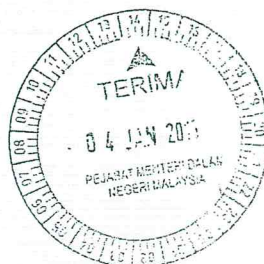
Di antara yang di pohon, termasuk berikut:-

- (i) Tempoh Permit bagi seorang Granthi dan pemuzik dilanjutkan dari 3 tahun ke 5 tahun
- (ii) Mengubah dan menurunkan had umur pemohon daripada 40 tahun (*Granthi*) dan 35 tahun (*Pemisik*) kepada 30 tahun bagi kedua-dua.

Kami juga dengan segala hormatnya pohon suatu tarikh bagi perjumpaan dengan Y.A.B. Datuk Seri.

Terima kasih.

(JAGIR SINGH)
PRESIDEN



Bahar Singh