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Oman slashes fee to recruit expats



Expatriate hiring and renewal fees for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Oman have been significantly reduced, the Ministry of Manpower has announced. Under the new regulations issued, issuing or renewing a work permit for an expat will now cost OMR301, while SMEs need to shell out OMR141 each to recruit one to three domestic workers or those of a similar skill set. However, once a fourth domestic or similarly skilled worker is required, that price goes up to OMR241. Procedures for changing a worker's information, as well as those related to the switching of employers, will cost OMR5 each. These updated costs will replace Article 2 of

Ministerial Resolution No. 340/2016. The SME looking to benefit from these reduced fees must be owned by an employer with a Riyada card and must be registered with the SME Development Authority. He must also be registered with the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI), although this last condition is exempt for retirees who own SMEs. An owner may use these benefits for only one of his SMEs, and should he wish to apply for anywhere between six and 10 licenses for foreign workers, he must have at least one Omani employed at his company.

Beijing awards additional maternity leave for third child

Beijing's health authority has announced that mothers of a third child would be able to apply for one to three months of additional leave if their workplace agrees to it, while their spouses will be eligible for 15 days of paternity leave, as part of the government's incentive to encourage larger families. This is on top of the additional 30 days of maternity leave that mothers of a third child were awarded at the end-May. Until now, mothers in Beijing were entitled to three to four months of maternity leave as a standard, depending also on the difficulty of delivery or other conditions. Starting June, China allowed all couples to have a third child, in efforts to increase the nation's fertility rates. Sichuan and Jiangxi provinces now award subsidies to couples who have their third child. Beijing's move makes it the third area to top on benefits to award citizens who have more children.



10-day sick leave rule takes effect in New Zealand



The legislation doubling the minimum number of sick leave from five to 10 took effect on Saturday, July 24, for employees in New Zealand. The Workplace Relations and Safety Ministry said the move will bring benefits to both businesses and employees. By giving people a minimum of 10 days of sick leave, the government is preventing diseases from spreading at the workplace. Additionally, having a healthy and well-rested workforce also helps businesses, citing studies that have suggested that people working while sick are 20% less productive, while the healthiest workers are up to three times more productive. Employees are

eligible for the increased entitlement at different times over the next year in line with their work anniversary dates.

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