

POSTAL NEWS

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Indonesia re-elected to two world postal memberships

Jakarta, (ANTARA News) - Indonesia had been re-elected to two memberships of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) namely the Council of Administration (CA) and the Postal Operation Council (POC).

"We have been re-elected as members of the CA and POC," Director General of Post and Telecommunications and Information Basuki Yusuf Iskandar said in Jakarta Friday.

The UPU congress was held in Geneva, Switzerland, August 4-6, 2008.

He said the CA handles the proposed regulations of the other UPU members in the world, while the members of POC are postal operators appointed by the respective UPU members.

"Indonesia has been re-elected CA member for region IV which has 40 member countries, while the Asian members of the POC are only Indonesia and Singapore," said Basuki as chief Indonesian delegate at the election.

The Western Hemisphere group has eight CA members, namely Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.

The Eastern Europe and North Asia group have five members in the CA namely Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russia dan Ukraine.

The West European group has 6 members, namely Belgium, France, Germany, the UK, Sweden and Turkey.

South Asia Oceania group has 10 members CA members namely Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, dan United Arab Emirates.

Africa group has 11 members in CA, namely Algeria, Benin, Bostwana, Cameroon, Congo, Egipt, Libya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Tunisia.

While the election of the Postal Members of the Operation Council (POC) has 166 votes. The POC has 40 membership, and according to regulations 24 membership is for the developing countries and 16 for the developed countries with 47 developed countries and 17 advanced countries.

The 40 elected members of POC are Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, the UK, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Korea, Libya, Japan, Morocco, Mexico, Holland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switserland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, America and Uruguay.

Basuki said the fact that Indonesia was elected was a reflection of the vast support and confidence of the UPU members in Indonesia`s activeness and contribution to the UPU organisation.

As follow up to the Indonesian re-election to the CA and POC membership, the Directorate of International Institutions at the Directorate General of Post and Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information will act as focal point in coordinating preparations for the further CA and POC meetings by forming a National Team.

The team will comprise members of all the working units within the Directorate General of Post and Telecommunications, PT Pos Indonesia and other relevant institutions. (*)

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'Beginning of the end' fears over postal service

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By Staff Copy

By Steve Barton and Rick Burin

A PATELEY Bridge councillor has spoken out over fears that more rural communities could lose their postal service, after Royal Mail refused to deliver to a remote North Yorkshire hamlet because of health and safety concerns.

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Services to Booze in AADVERTISEMENT

rkengarthdale have been suspended after a health and safety inspection found postmen were at risk of back injuries, leaving 15 families having to drive to Richmond to collect their own letters and parcels.

Coun Stan Beer said: "If a similar thing happened in Pateley Bridge, there would be uproar.

"People shouldn't be expected to have to go so far out of their way to get their mail.

"The postman is a very important part of the community - he checks up on people and passes on the gossip that holds together rural communities.

"In rural areas he is a vital figure, I think people here are more concerned about losing the postman than the mail."

And he said postmen should be given whatever vehicle or equipment they need to do the job, adding that the county council had a role in making sure access routes to the Dales were suitable.

"If you can't remove the hazard, you take precautions, you don't just stop doing it altogether," he said.

"What's the next thing going to be? Ambulances not picking people up because they can't use the roads? It's the beginning of the end, it's crazy," he added.

Residents of Booze were given just 24 hours notice of the decision to axe their delivery service.

In a letter, delivery office manager Colin Appleby said: "A health and safety risk assessment has confirmed that the level of risk associated with this delivery is unacceptable due to an unsuitable track."

Mr Appleby told residents their address would be classed as "one which does not receive the normal daily delivery to the door for health and safety reasons."

County councillor John Blackie, who represents the Upper Dales on the county council, described the decision as “scandalous” and warned that dozens of other Dales communities could suffer a similar loss of service.

“If they are going to cut off deliveries to places like Booze, when is the next small rural community that I represent going to lose their post?” he said.

“I can think of a dozen communities in the Dales with access roads equal to Booze or even slightly worse who will be under threat.”

Farmer’s wife Hazel Harker said: “The whole hamlet is in an uproar about it. It is a council road and we have always had deliveries by the mail van.”

Royal Mail said concerns had been raised by delivery staff and checks confirmed they were at risk.

“Affected customers were made aware of the issue and we have agreed with them to deliver their mail temporarily to an alternative address of their choice whilst arrangements are made for Royal Mail to provide, as a gesture of goodwill, roadside boxes which will become their permanent delivery point.”

But Coun Beer said Royal Mail had a duty to serve rural communities.

“Delivering mail to the countryside might cost more, but we’re here to support the countryside for everyone to enjoy,” he said.

“Royal Mail makes profits in the towns and they should use that money to provide a proper service.”

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Port Louis postal museum

By Raghav Ramful Published 8th August, 2008 Discover Mauritius Unrated

Raghav Ramful

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The means used to take the visitor on this journey has been carefully worked out and in addition to old documents on display, original tools and equipment also form part of the décor. An old counter that was once in the post office of Curepipe takes the visitor back in time. The museum not only hinges on pure philately but also on the passionate lives of people who have been delivering good and bad news to the population through newspapers and mail. You will see the most common means of transport of the postman,

still used today, the bicycle, on display along with the uniforms they used to wear which have been mounted on manikins.

Archival documents extracted from the collection of Jean François Guimbeau and precious stamps from Sanjeet Teelock catch the eye of the visitor. The brittle very first issue of a local newspaper that dates back to 1772 is also on display. That publication was first established during the French colonial period by Pierre Nicolas Lambert. Lambert guaranteed his subscribers free delivery of inland mail once a week along with his newspaper. He also despatched overseas mail and he assured free delivery of letters from abroad. Non subscribers were also able to take advantage of this service for a nominal fee.

The postal system had deteriorated when the British took over the island in 1810. They provided an undeveloped overseas service with an almost inexistent inland mail service. In 1834, there was a timid move to develop the postal system. Thus in that year, the government announced that an experimental postal service between Port Louis and Mahebourg would be provided once weekly. The service was successful and in 1835, instead of once weekly, the service was extended to thrice weekly.

Postage stamp

The postage stamp was invented by Sir Rowland Hill in 1840 for the prepayment of mail which took the postal systems by storm. Mauritius started issuing its own postal stamps in 1847. In September 1847, the country issued two postage stamps that were printed in Port Louis. Only 500 deep blue two-penny denominations and 500 orange-red one-penny stamps were produced. To date it is said that only 15 of the one penny stamps of 1847 have survived which include two unused ones that now lie in the Blue Penny Museum at Caudan Waterfront in Port Louis. Out of the 500 stamps of two-pence denominations printed in 1847, only 12 of them are known to have survived. Most of them lie in museum collections around the world. As a matter of fact, the two sets of post office denominations of 1847 remain the most famous and expensive stamps in the world because of their rarity.

The illustrations on Mauritian stamps since 1847 tell another interesting tale of the history of the island. The effigy of Queen Victoria was a very popular feature of postage stamps in the beginning and they came in different hues. Then came the heads of King Edward VII, King George V and King George VI, followed by Queen Elizabeth II. In the 1950s, these portraits gave way to more colourful pictorials of birds and marine life. After independence in 1968, illustrations were based on themes depicting the different aspects of Mauritius ranging from the cultural and economic to its political ones. History of the island, endemic fauna and flora also figured on the stamps.

China Postal Savings Bank approved to distribute insurance products

Aug. 8, 2008 (China Knowledge) - The China Postal Savings Bank (CPSB) has obtained the regulatory approval from the China Insurance Regulatory Commission to distribute insurance products nationwide. Officially established on Mar. 20, 2007, the CPSB has more than 37,000 outlets across the country, of which more than two-thirds are in rural areas, making it the largest rural financial network in China.