

POSTAL NEWS

No. 47/2010

**Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI**

- 1. It's easy to 'hold' your mail. June 15, 2010.**
- 2. Postal reform bill to pass: Haraguchi. June 13, 2010.**
- 3. Postal Staff Undergo Training. June 13, 2010.**
- 4. Posta may lay off 2,000 workers. June 13, 2010.**
- 5. Post Office to sell gold coins. June 13, 2010.**

1. It's easy to 'hold' your mail

Submitted by ANNE MITCHELL, U.S. Postal Service

POSTED: June 15, 2010

Are you going on vacation and need to put your mail on "hold?" The Postal Service has made it a simple task by following one of these two procedures:

By filing online at www.usps.com/holdmail

Contacting 1-800-ASK-USPS where a representative can assist you.

A hold mail request is not necessary for a P.O. box, as mail will be allowed to accumulate for up to 30 days.

An alternative to having your mail held is to use the Postal Service's Premium Forwarding Service. For a set fee of \$13.95 per week all mail is shipped via Priority Mail to your temporary address. A one time enrollment fee of \$15 is charged for this service.

When completing an online hold mail request, a confirmation page will be displayed with a confirmation number to verify your request has been accepted. Make sure you print out this page or copy down your confirmation number for future reference.

Online hold mail requests submitted before 2 a.m. Central Time can begin on the same postal business day (Monday through Saturday). Requests made in person or by calling the 1-800 number must be submitted one business day in advance. You may submit a hold mail request up to 14 days in advance. Only one hold is permitted at a time.

Hold mail requests must be made for a minimum duration of three days. The maximum duration is 30 days. All mail regardless of name will be held for the address entered. Submitting a hold mail request once is all that is required to hold mail delivery for everyone at the address. When our mail is placed on hold, your post office will hold all packages as well.

The "end date" of your hold mail request is the date mail will be delivered. Your letter carrier will deliver your mail on this date. If you want to resume delivery of your held mail earlier than the requested "end date," you will need your confirmation number.

For more information about putting your mail on hold, purchasing stamps, stamps by mail, postal regulations, a free subscription to USA Philatelic magazine, post office events, the location of the nearest postal store or contract unit, or for answers to your specific Postal Service questions, contact USPS at 1-800-275-8777, or visit www.usps.com. To schedule a presentation for your community, club or group on how the Postal Service brings the post office to your home or office computer, call 573-9638.

Mr. Zip's Tip: The U.S. Postal Service has been connecting people and businesses since the nation's founding. Its mission has remained the same for more than 230 years-to provide trusted, affordable and universal service.

An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits every address in the nation 146 million homes and businesses. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses, not tax dollars. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.

000

Sunday, June 13, 2010

2. Postal reform bill to pass: Haraguchi

FUKUI (Kyodo) Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Kazuhiro Haraguchi vowed Saturday to pass a bill to roll back the planned privatization of state-owned Japan Post Holdings Co. through the Diet after the upcoming Upper House election.

Haraguchi made the remarks in a speech before a meeting of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan's Fukui prefectural chapter, saying former postal minister Shizuka Kamei's resignation will not affect moves to pass the bill.

Kamei, who heads Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party), left the Cabinet of Prime Minister Naoto Kan last week after the DPJ rejected its coalition partner's call to extend the current Diet session to pass the postal reform bill.

Despite Kamei's resignation, the two parties have said they will maintain their alliance and put priority on deliberating the bill in an extraordinary Diet session to be convened after the House of Councilors election, expected on July 11.

000

3. Postal Staff Undergo Training

PDFPrintE-mail

Share Written by Rachel Thien Sunday, 13 June 2010 06:49

Bandar Seri Begawan - The Brunei Postal Services Department is currently conducting a training programme for its staff in a bid to enhance their skills, efficiency and competitive edge over their counterparts regionally and globally in its aspiration to become the centre for excellence in postal services.

Hamir Mohd Salleh, acting post master general told The Brunei Times that the external programme, "Asian Pacific Postal Training" which is being conducted in collaboration with the Mean Postal Training Centre in Bangkok, was an opportunity for staff at the department to collectively be trained together.

'Previously, we used to send two of our staff to Bangkok for training. But bringing the consultant to Brunei means everyone can participate," he said, adding that it was also economical for the department.

He pointed out that it was important to provide training to the staff because the department is trying to compete with other countries. "We cannot stay where we are; we want to improve our staff's skills and efficiency and want them to learn new things because we do not want to be left behind," he said.

Hamir explained that being a centre for excellence meant having the best practices in their business structure. It also meant providing excellent customer care and being a centre for community services.

"The long established culture of how we conduct our business is no longer relevant once our secure monopoly in the postal sector is challenged by competition from changing markets, a growing electronic market and advanced technologies as well as changing customer's tastes," said Munk in his speech at the launching of the training programme yesterday.

The acting postmaster general suggested that in order to tackle the issue, the Brunei Postal Services Department should go along with these changes instead of resisting them. "The strengths lie with our professional human resources which need to be upgraded from time to time.

Skills and knowledge can be further improved and enhanced through proper planning and training programmes," he said. The two-week programme is conducted in two stages, namely "Managing Post as a Business Course" and "The Costing of Postal Products and Financial Management Course."

Hamir said, "Our effort and the cooperation of the Asian Pacific Postal College (APPC) are enabling our postal administration to conduct this training programme to all managerial levels from supervisory, heads of sub-offices, units and sections."

Present as guest of honour was the ministry's Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary Pg Hj Mohd 'Lain Pg Hj Abd Razak. -- Courtesy of Brunei Times

000

4. Posta may lay off 2,000 workers

By DAVID OKWEMBAH

Posted Sunday, June 13 2010 at 00:00

The Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK) has to retrench at least 2,000 employees to remain afloat and profitable.

The parastatal, which employs an estimated 4,500 people, is weighed down by a Sh2 billion debt to pensioners and other creditors.

Information and Communications Permanent Secretary Dr Bitange Ndemo could not say how much PCK requires, but the corporation's strategic plan for 2008-2012 says Sh5.7 billion is needed to make it profitable again.

The PS said the ministry had approached the Treasury with a view to securing finances to re-position the state corporation.

The corporation is overstaffed by more than 2,000 workers, whom the ministry intends to offload by offering them a golden handshake.

“Money is the problem at PCK, and we would have embarked on re-positioning the corporation if we had had funding,” the PS stated.

The corporation was ranked third from bottom during government performance contracting for the last year, and its management met last week for three days to discuss ways of tackling the matter.

Those at the meeting included the Postmaster General (PMG) and all the general and regional managers.

In addition to offloading some of the employees, the corporation must also adopt new technology and do away with outdated business processes.

The strategic plan adopted by the management team before Maj-Gen Hussein Ali took over notes that the organisation only needs 1,800 employees to offer better services to its clients.

It also identified five corporate objectives to reposition PCK both internally and externally within the plan period.

The objectives include growing PCK's revenues, reducing overall expenditure, improving efficiency through automation as well as optimising its human resource capacity.

However, despite the management adopting the five-year strategic plan two years ago, nothing has been implemented.

Efforts to get a comment from the PMG failed as he was reported to be in meetings the whole of last week.

Former Provincial Commissioner Mr Cyrus Maina, who chairs the board of directors, was equally evasive when the Sunday Nation reached him twice on the phone.

The plan spelt out by the management led by former PMG Fred Odhiambo would have seen a reduction of staff costs from the current 65 per cent of revenue to 50 per cent in the first year and to an average of 35 per cent by the end of the 2012/2013 financial year.

"This strategy would ensure that PCK is financially stable within the shortest time possible and is sustainable in the long term," one general manager told the Sunday Nation.

Also targeted for reduction were operational and administrative costs by 15 per cent and the restructuring of the pension plan. The strategic plan notes that the pension debt that increases annually should be renegotiated to allow for repayment over 10 years.

To grow and maximise revenues, PCK gave itself a target of increasing its financial services revenue from the current Sh700 million to Sh1 billion within the first year and subsequently to Sh5 billion by the end of the fifth year.

Courier revenues were also expected to grow from the current Sh113 million to Sh160 million within the first year and to Sh1 billion by the end of the planned period. Mail revenues were to grow from the current Sh2.2 billion to Sh2.5 billion within the first year and subsequently to Sh3.2 billion by the end of 2012/13.

Failed automation

All the key business processes were supposed to be automated within the first year of the planned period.

Dr Ndemo, who also sits on the PCK board, conceded that the state corporation was facing some challenges for failing to automate its services as well as not exploiting its courier system.

"The workforce at PCK requires injection of new blood as a way of accepting change," the PS noted.

He noted that whereas the world was moving away from the postal address system and adopting street address, PCK was yet to come to terms with the changing trends.

Besides, PCK is weighed down by a negative balance sheet since 2002 as it owes its pensioners and other creditors an estimated Sh2 billion.

PCK has the highest executive turnover in government; it has had five chief executives in the last five years.

000

5. Post Office to sell gold coins

Posted by Sumit Sehgal on 6/13/10 • Categorized as News, North East (52 views)
0diggsdigg

Guwahati: Those planning to buy gold coins in Assam will no longer have to visit an ornament store or a jeweller. Golden coins are now available at post offices in the state.

The postal department have launched a scheme under which five post offices across the state would sell pure gold coins of different denominations.

The chief post master general (Assam Circle) Monojit Kumar on Friday said “The gold coins bearing India Post logo will now be available in five post offices in the state at Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Mangoldoi and Guwahati GPO. The coins are 24 carat gold and produced by Valcambi, Switzerland in association with the World Gold Council and Reliance Money Infrastructure Limited.”

The gold coins will be available in denominations 0.5 grams (Rs 1211), one gram (Rs 2255), five grams (Rs10, 592) and eight grams (Rs 16943). He added that during the month ending (June 30) the coins will be available at a special introductory discount of six (6) percent.

Postal department officials said the scheme has been launched as part of its innovation programs to attract people to the postal services.

The state circle of the department also launched three other new schemes – Instant Money Order (iMO), Money Order Videsh (M O Videsh) and New Pension Scheme (NPS).

The official said the iMO is an instant web based domestic money transfer service through post office and people of the state will be able to transfer money from Rs 1000 to Rs 50,000 between two iMO enabled post offices. The iMO service is available in 38 post offices in Assam and is going to be implemented in all the broadband connected post offices across the state.

“In this system, the remitter on booking the iMO will be given a secret code number which he is required to communicate to the payee at the other end. The payee has to go to any iMO enabled post office in his town or city, give the secret code along with

personal identification and the amount is paid to him immediately at the counter,” the official said.

The MO Videsh will enable customers to remit money overseas through the 19 head post offices of the state and the service will be available even from places as distant as North Lakhimpur, Hailakandi, Kokrajhar and Diphu,” the official added.

Kumar also launched the centre’s New Pension Scheme which will be available from all the 19 head post offices in Assam.

Read more: Post Office to sell gold coins - All India Today

<http://www.allindiatoday.com/7584/post-office-to-sell-gold-coins#ixzz0rRQVXKDw>

000

Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

E-mail address : chairulanwar49@operamail.com, uyungchairul@plasa.com.