



**ICA**  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
PROTECTING BORDERS & PROMOTING PROSPERITY

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER

### CIRCULAR ADVICE

To : All Valued Clients  
From : Acting Chief Migration Officer  
Date : 19 March 2020  
**Subject: Extension for short term visas and consideration of COS in country to avoid risks of exposure and contraction of COVID-19 by returning foreign personnel**

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The Public Notice refers to above subject matter and serves to advise all our valued clients regarding temporary measures put in place to extend short term visas in the country as well as to consider Change of Status application in-country.

To avoid possible spread of COVID-19 in PNG, the decision was made to limit movement of returning foreign nationals travelling overseas, who may be exposed to COVID-19.

Specific visa category that is being considered for extension covers (i) Business; (ii) Restricted Employment Visas (REV); and (iii) Visitors visa.

Change of Status visa applications may be considered in-country depending on assessments made on airline/travel restriction and lockdown arrangements imposed by both the PNG Government and affected Foreign Governments.

Extension of short term visas will be granted for thirty (30) days. Visas will be considered for second (2<sup>nd</sup>) extension, if required.

These temporary measures will be closely monitored and reviewed within thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice.

ICA is very accommodating in such trying times, thus, Visa holders are encouraged to lodge applications well before expiry of the visas.

Lodging applications after expiry of current visas will incur late extension fees and/or will be referred to the Compliance and Enforcement Division for their assessment and penalties to be imposed.

### **1. Business and REV Visas**

Priority will be given to current visa holders engaged with important Government Infrastructure Projects and those engaged in the Gas, Oil and Mining Sector.

Visa holders in other related Sectors that may be affected due to travel and lockdown restrictions by the Papua New Guinea Government and other foreign Governments will be extended accordingly

#### *Requirements*

- Request Letter from Sponsor stating importance of completing projects and its validity.
- Supporting documents from Contractors or Ministers especially re. Government projects.
- Completed Application to extend Entry Permit
- Checklist for Business visa extension (refer website)
- Passports
- Extension fee of USD500.00
- Copy of current Visa Grant Notice

### **2. Visitors Visa ( covers E-visas, Visa on Arrival or issued by PNG Diplomatic Missions/Posts)**

The Visitor visa extension requests will be assessed prior to decision made. An extension of thirty (30) days may be granted for stated visa holders affected by travel restrictions imposed by concerned Governments. Those that fear contracting COVID-19 in transit to or upon arrival in their country of origin or residence may see their visa granted in-country.

### Requirements

- Request Letter from Sponsor or Visa applicant stating reason for extensions. Letter to indicate who they initially visited, current location of stay if visa extended and state financial capability to sustain themselves.
- Attached birth certificates or marriage certificates for nuclear family
- Completed Application to extend Entry Permit Form
- Passports
- Copies of Visa Grant Notice
- Visa fee of USD150 equivalent

### Change of Status Applications

Change of Status applications will be considered in-country and decision to extend maybe effected without person departing the country.

Priority will be given to Dependent of Citizen seeking change of status to another category and vis-versa.

Based on travel restrictions imposed by our Government and other Foreign Governments, other COS per prescribed conditions may be considered in country on a temporary basis.



**Robert Bara Kennedy**  
**Acting Chief Migration Officer**