



ICA
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PROTECTING BORDERS & PROMOTING PROSPERITY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORATORIUM ON PERMANENT RESIDENT VISA HOLDERS AFFECTED BY COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

The Immigration and Citizenship Authority (Authority) has received numerous enquiries regarding permanent resident visa status of holders who have been living abroad for more than 12 months due to travel restrictions in the last two years. Having considered both legislative and policy guidelines governing the management of permanent resident visa, the Authority is issuing this Moratorium with specific conditions to assist holders of permanent resident visa to re-enter the PNG.

Permanent resident visa holders who fall under the three different categories below must follow the conditions set out here to allow their re-entry.

1. Permanent resident visa holders who had informed the Authority within 12 months of their absence from PNG

Holders of permanent resident visas who had notified the Authority within 12 months regarding their absence from the country are allowed to return to PNG anytime from the date of this Moratorium. You must immediately contact the Authority via email pr@immigration.gov.pg if unsure of your status.

You must immediately contact the Authority and provide reasons for your prolonged absence from PNG after the first notification but within 24 months of being abroad.

2. Permanent resident visa holders who had failed to inform the Authority within 12 months of their absence from PNG

Holders of permanent resident visas who have been living abroad for more than 12 months and had failed to inform the Authority may be allowed to re-enter PNG subject to meeting the following conditions:

- ♦ They must contact the Authority immediately via email pr@immigration.gov.pg and provide their personal details to establish the permanent resident visa status.
- ♦ The permanent resident visa and the passport must be valid
- ♦ They must re-enter PNG within 30 days from the date of this Moratorium and when the clearance is granted for travel

If the permanent resident visa holder under this category fails to re-enter PNG within 30 days from the date of this Moratorium, the Authority will automatically render their visa null and void.

3. Permanent resident visa holder whose visa had expired while abroad

Holders of permanent resident visas that have expired while the holder is abroad with or without informing the Authority within 12 months will no longer be allowed to re-enter PNG. They must immediately contact the Authority via email pr@immigration.gov.pg to seek further guidance should they wish to regain their permanent resident status.

Contact the Authority via email if your circumstances do not fall under any of the three categories above but your permanent resident visa has been affected by covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanis', with a stylized flourish underneath.

STANIS HULAHAU
Chief Migration Officer

11 July 2022