



PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 2020-0035

TO : ECONOMIC ZONE DEVELOPERS/ENTERPRISES
ECONOMIC ZONE ADMINISTRATORS/MANAGERS/OICs

FROM : BGEN CHARITO B. PLAZA MNSA, PhD
DIRECTOR GENERAL

SUBJECT : PEZA ADVISORY ON REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM
TRAVEL BAN OF FOREIGN NATIONALS ESSENTIAL TO
OPERATIONS OF PEZA REGISTERED COMPANIES

DATE : 22 JUNE 2020

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On 19 March 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) issued Foreign Service Circular No. 29-2020 on the "Temporary Suspension of Visa Issuance and Visa-Free Privileges (copy attached). In effect, this is a travel ban to the Philippines since visa issuance is suspended.

Notwithstanding said suspension, it was stated that the Secretary of Foreign Affairs or the Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns may exempt on a case-to-case basis, foreign nationals otherwise covered by this temporary suspension.

Some PEZA registered enterprises have requested for PEZA endorsement for purposes of securing DFA travel ban exemption. **For the guidance of PEZA enterprises, pending lifting of the suspension, the exemption from travel ban should only be requested for essential and emergency reasons, which should be stated in the request.** For request of PEZA endorsement to the DFA, the following documents should be attached to the letter-request of the PEZA company to be submitted to the Director General, stating the name of the foreign national and the reason for the request for travel ban exemption:

- a) Biopage of the passport of the foreign national
- b) Department of Justice Indorsement, as applicable
- c) Copy of ticket, if available

Upon PEZA endorsement, processing at the DFA takes about one (1) week, if reason for the travel ban exemption is justifiable and documents are complete.

For the guidance of all concerned.



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

FOREIGN SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 29-2020

SUBJECT: Temporary Suspension of Visa Issuance and Visa-free Privileges

In light of Proclamation No. 929 dated 16 March 2020 Declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019 and of Proclamation No. 922 Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines dated 08 March 2020, effective immediately, all Foreign Service Posts are instructed to temporarily suspend visa issuance.

Likewise, all Foreign Service Posts are informed that Visa-free Privileges including those pursuant to Visa Waiver Agreements, those under Executive Order No. 408, s.1960, and for holders of Hong Kong SAR passports, Macau SAR passports, Macau-Portuguese passports and British National Overseas passports are temporarily suspended.

Foreign spouses and children of Filipino nationals are exempted from this temporary suspension.

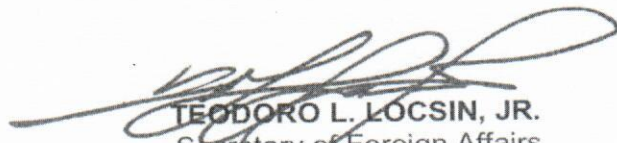
Further, all previously issued visas are deemed canceled except those issued to the following:

- Foreign Government and International Organization officials accredited to the Philippines; and,
- Foreign spouses and children of Filipino nationals.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs or the Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns may exempt, on a case-to-case basis, foreign nationals otherwise covered by this temporary suspension.

This circular shall remain valid and effective until further notice.

For compliance.


TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Pasay City, MAR 19 2020