

30 March 2020

CIRCULAR NO.17/2020

TO : ALL MEMBERS

ORANGE PASSES FOR STAFF AND VEHICLES & WORK PERMIT AND BUSINESS VISA RENEWALS DURING STATE OF EMERGENCY PERIOD DUE TO COVID-19

Firstly, you will note from our earlier circulars that Orange Passes will be issued to Vehicles and Staff operating essential services during the State of Emergency and Lock-Down period.

These passes will be issued by the Controller of State of Emergency and essential staff and vehicles moving around will be required to produce the passes on request by police.

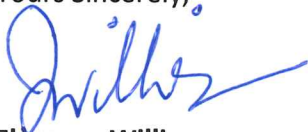
Members are asked to submit formally in writing to the Federation the names and vehicle registrations for issue of passes so that we can take it up with our business representatives on the Peak Business Bodies for COVID-19 on your behalf.

Secondly, those employers whose Foreign Workers' Work Permit and Business Visa falling due during the State of Emergency period and will be affected by it are asked to submit their renewal applications through the Employers Federation so that we can take it up with the Authorities on your behalf.

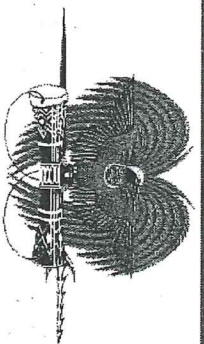
We have been informed by the Secretary for Labour and Industrial Relations that his officers will process only renewal applications for Work Permits. All new applications for Work Permit are suspended for this period. Special cases of new work permits will be considered on a case by case basis. We attach for your attention a public advertisement placed in the newspapers today on this matter. Please referred to the attached.

Should you have further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Federation Office.

Yours Sincerely,



Florence Willie
Executive Director



DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

24 March 2020

To: Employers, Workers and the General Public;

"Temporary Measures on the Handling of Employment Relations matters during the Period of the declared 14 days State of Emergency lock-down"

The Coronavirus pandemic has been declared a "public health emergency of international concern." It is now causing disruption all around the world on an unprecedented scale.

The National Government has now declared a fourteen (14) day State of Emergency (SoE), effective as of Tuesday 24th March 2020.

Consistent with the Government's declaration of the SoE, all Labour Administration Services both at Headquarters and in the Field Operations in the provinces are now being scaled down to a minimum.

This means that only officers of the Department involved in the essential services will be required to report to work during the 14 days lock - down.

The State of Emergency now takes precedence over everything else. All employers and workers must comply with all the measures that have been issued by the Government.

As this situation is classified as a natural disaster neither the employers nor the workers, should be disadvantaged during this 14-days State of Emergency period.

The Department advises that the following measures for the respective services will be in place during the 14 days period:

Work Permits:

A temporary ban will now be placed on all new Work Permit Applications for non - citizens. This would mean that only "essential and special skills" applications will be considered and accepted, based on their job titles and the industries they engage in.

The Department will review this situation after consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister and the National Department of Health. The Foreign Employment Division will only receive and process renewal applications for the months of March, April and May, including the issuance of Work Permits and Licenses.

All follow-ups on the progress of applications will be addressed through emails, and on telephone

numbers: 3011607/72236048. Further contact numbers can be obtained from the Department, via a signed Public Notice to the Clients.

Other Services of the Department/Ministry of Labour & Industrial Relations:

All other services that engage clients, inclusive of the, Office of the, Office of the Workers Compensation (OWC), the Independence Fellowship Scheme (IFS), the National Training Council (NTC), Industrial Relations Division (IR), Labour Administration (LA), Independent Fellowship Scheme (IFS), National Apprenticeship and Trade Testing Board (NATTB), National Training Council (NTC) & Occupational, Safety & Health (OSH) Programme have also put in place measures to ensure business continuity, but with limited contact with clients.

For further information, contact the respective Offices on the following telephone numbers:

1. OWC - 3255901/74110965.
2. IFS - 3257809/74303185.
3. IR - 3201288/73149669.
4. LA - 3250348/70585582.
5. OSH- 3253391/325039.

The situation will be reviewed after the fourteen (14) days State of Emergency (SoE) period.

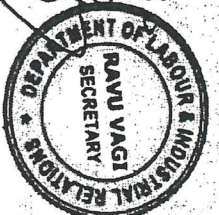
Hotline Numbers and Call Forward Details:

Telephone Number: 325 8865
(Office of Executive Manager IRC)

Mobile Numbers:
Mr. Francis Hau: 71281069
Mr. Wala Iga: 73149669
Mr. Remi Yariyari: 72452047
Mr. Soilas Bokowi: 72236048

Authorised by:


RAVU VAGI
Secretary



Department of Labour and Industrial Relations