

Department of Immigration and Emigration

Male', Maldives.

Notice number: (IUL)94-A/94/2012/39

NOTICE

A lot of foreigners are living in the Maldives without the required visa which would allow them to do so. We announce to the public that our records show that such people are increasing day by day. Since this is a worrisome issue to the Government, we have decided to take action against this in the following ways.

1. It has been decided that from 26th November 2012 onwards, bringing foreigners for unskilled labor will be temporarily prohibited. However, permission to unskilled laborers will be given by a committee after thorough reviewing. It is estimated that this process will take 2 months. We ask for cooperation from all parties in these cases.
2. Amnesty will be granted for the foreigners who will be unable to depart from Maldives in-between 01 December 2012 and 31st March 2013. In this regard, arrangements will be organized without any setbacks for anyone who wishes to leave the country.
3. Except the individuals who are wanted by the Maldives Police Service or those who have pending trials at legal courts, anyone who wishes to leave Maldives and so present themselves to the office assigned by the Immigration for this purpose will have all their arrangements sorted out.
4. **Under no circumstance should passports be possessed by anyone other than its owner. If this problem arises and the person presents himself to the Immigration, assistance will be provided to re-locate it. Legal action will be taken against those who hold back passports.**
5. The individuals under any circumstance who are held back at Maldives and unable to leave will be provided all necessary arrangements for their departure as soon as the Immigration is notified.

6. From 26th November 2012, the labor system currently in application will be stopped from use. Further quota issuance, quota increasing, renewing work permits and issuing work permits will all be done through an online visa system called “Expat” system. Hence we request to register all quotas and work permits at this online system as soon as possible. Furthermore, registering and uploading arrangements will be provided from the assigned office.
7. Since the labor system currently in use is stopped, all parties will be given a period of 6 months to update to the new online system. It has been decided that after this 6 month period, the penalties for late submissions and penalties for period renewal requests will not be demanded. However, we announce that after this period, the penalty fine is taken including the later time.
8. Under this arrangement the only ones who will be made to depart are those who are living illegally without any visa and without paying the due fee. With this decision, it becomes controlled to send away employees who are living under legal boundaries without prior informing their respective employers.
9. Under coordinated operations between this department and the Maldives Police Service, individuals who are caught employing foreigners in violation with Immigration’s law 1/2007 will be dealt with according to the 32nd degree of this same law. And such problems will be observed as human trafficking and will be sent to the respective court. In addition, all Councils all around the Maldives will have this authority to act accordingly under this announcement.

Hence, we make this announcement publicly.

26 November 2012.