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Extension of Validity of Exit and Re-entry Visas in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Riyadh reported that upon the directives of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Prime Minister and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, through the Saudi General Directorate of Passports (Jawazat), the extension on the validity of exit and re-entry visas of expatriates and their family members who are currently outside the Kingdom is in effect.

The extension until 30 June 2020 covers visas with expiration between February 25 to May 24, 2020. Application for extension must be done electronically by the employer at the designated link in the electronic visa portal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://visa.mofa.gov.sa/ExtendReturnedVisa>.

The extension of iqama as well as exit and re-entry visa and final exit visa will be free of charge on expat fees. Moreover, Jawazat requested all expatriates in the Kingdom, who have a final exit visa or an exit and reentry visa, to quickly cancel them before their expiry to avoid the prescribed fines for not availing of these visas before their expiry date.

The new measure was adopted following the Saudi government's suspension of international flights as part of the preventive and precautionary measures to control the spread of COVID-19.

To avoid unnecessary inconvenience, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), private recruitment agencies and manning agencies availing of this visa extension are advised to follow the conditions set forth in POEA Memorandum Circular No. 7 Series of 2020 on the application of overseas employment certificates (OECs) as well as existing ECQ regulations being implemented by local government units, national quarantine protocols, immigration formalities and travel restrictions imposed by the Philippines or countries of destination

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

BERNARD P. OLALIA
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Source: POLO Riyadh Report 20 April 2020
<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/591368/SAUDI-ARABIA/Jawazat-unveils-mechanism-to-extend-reentry-visas-of-expats-outside-Kingdom>

