

PRESCRIBING THE USE OF SECURITY VISA STICKER FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LONG-STAY VISITOR VISA EXTENSION (LSVVE)

BI MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. RADJR-2013-002, April 04, 2013

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WHEREAS, under Section 9(a) of Commonwealth Act No. 613, as amended, otherwise known as the “Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 (PIA),” temporary visitors coming into the Philippines for business or for pleasure or for reasons of health may be admitted into the country as non-immigrants;

WHEREAS, the Commissioner is vested with the power and authority to grant or deny visa extensions;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Immigration together with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Foreign Affairs have agreed to introduce policy reforms in a bid to spur tourist arrivals in the country;

WHEREAS, a number of temporary visitors stay in the Philippines for more than six (6) months;

WHEREAS, in the interest of speedy delivery of services, it is within the prerogative of the Commissioner to determine policies, rules and procedure to identify, document and monitor foreign nationals staying in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Long Stay Visitors Visa Extension (LSVVE) will facilitate declogging the Bureau of Immigration offices of the volume of clients applying for visa extensions;

WHEREAS, the LSVVE offers convenience to the foreign nationals by allowing longer terms of extension of authorized stay under a single transaction;

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to incorporate greater security measures in the implementation of LSVVE;

WHEREAS, the Security Visa Sticker (SVS) contains security and tracking features which are not available in the wet stamp medium of implementation;

WHEREAS, the use of the SVS instead of the traditional wet stamp in implementation will speed up transaction time in the application process and will allow more efficient tracking of records and faster detection of forged and tampered stamps;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of Commonwealth Act (C.A.) No. 613, or the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, and Sections 29 and 36, Chapter 6, Book IV, Title III of Executive Order (E.O.) No. 292 or the Revised Administrative Code of 1987, this Memorandum Circular is hereby issued:

Section 1. Long-Stay Visitor Visa Extension (LSVVE), defined. – Long- Stay Visitor Visa Extension (LSVVE) refers to the extension of visa of temporary visitors under existing laws, regulations or circulars, or of tourists under Section 9(a) of the Philippine Immigration Act, the duration of which shall be up to six (6) months from the time of expiration of authorized stay.

Section 2. Long-Stay Visitor Visa Extension (LSVVE), who may apply. – All temporary visitors who are not otherwise disqualified may apply for a LSVVE subject to payment of fees and documentary requirements. Said option however, does not prevent the concerned foreign national to avail of a shorter term of extension under existing regulations.

Section 3. Security Visa Sticker (SVS), defined; Additional P100 Fee. – The Security Visa Sticker (SVS) is a medium of implementation for the LSVVE which bears security and tracking features not available in the traditional wet stamp. For this purpose, an additional One hundred pesos (Php100.00) shall be added to existing fees of the visa application to defray the costs of the Security Visa Sticker.

Section 4. Repealing clause. – All previously issued memoranda and communications or parts thereof which are inconsistent with these Rules are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity. - This Circular shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Let copies of this Memorandum Circular be filed with the Office of the National Administrative Registrar (ONAR), U.P Law Center, University of the Philippines Complex, Diliman, Quezon City.

(SGD.) RICARDO A. DAVID, JR.
Commissioner

Approved:

(SGD.) LEILA M. DE LIMA
Secretary of Justice

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