



GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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Philippines – COVID-19: Quarantine Extension and Exceptions on Travel Restrictions

The General Community Quarantine (GCQ) will continue to be enforced in the National Capital Region and other cities and provinces in the Philippines while certain exemptions from international travel restrictions may be available for foreign nationals who seek to enter the Philippines for essential and emergency reasons.¹

WHY THIS MATTERS

The extension of the quarantine measures and travel restrictions will continue to limit the movement of international employees assigned in the Philippines.² Employers should continue looking into the effects of this extension on the compliance requirements of their employees in relation to their tax, immigration, and social security obligations.

On the other hand, in order to help with planning, employers may consider securing a recommendation letter for their employees for purposes of obtaining an exemption from the travel restriction.

General Community Quarantine (GCQ) Extension

The National Capital Region and the cities of Batangas, Tacloban, Bacolod, Iligan, and Iloilo shall remain under GCQ from 1 October until 31 October 2020.

Under GCQ, strict home quarantine shall be observed in all households and movement shall be limited to accessing essential goods and services and to work in permitted offices or select establishments. Government offices shall operate under a limited workforce and limited public transportation will be allowed.

All domestic flights to and from Metro Manila are allowed under GCQ. International travel restrictions shall remain except for those cases mentioned in the advisories³ of the Bureau of Immigration.

Exemption on Inbound Travel Restrictions

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) may issue a recommendation letter to allow a foreign national to enter the country under exceptional cases such as an endorsement from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA).

Based on Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0035⁴ issued by PEZA, a letter request to be exempted from the travel ban may be submitted by the PEZA entity. According to the Memorandum Circular, the following documents should be attached to the letter request:

- a. "Bio" page of the passport of the foreign national;
- b. Department of Justice Indorsement, as applicable;
- c. Copy of ticket, if available.

Employers that are not PEZA-registered enterprises may submit their requests to the DTI.

FOOTNOTES:

1 For this and other relevant measures taken by the Philippines government to combat the spread of COVID-19, see this [webpage](#) of the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines.

2 For prior coverage of Philippine government quarantine measures see the following issues of *GMS Flash Alert*: [2020-361](#) (20 August 2020) and [2020-223](#) (8 May 2020).

3 Ibid.

4 See [PEZA Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0035](#).

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As businesses react to the challenges faced today, build resilience, identify opportunities for recovery, and adapt to a new reality, KPMG International hosted weekly webcasts from 24 March to 16 June to help tax, legal, and mobility leaders around the world successfully navigate the business impacts arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Over the course of 13 weeks, 10,000+ business leaders joined these webcasts and provided their valuable feedback through polling questions, post-session surveys, and Q&A sessions. [This webpage](#) offers you highlights of the series.

Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in the Philippines:



Karen Jane S. Vergara-Manese
Partner
Tel. + 63 (2) 8885 7000 ext. 8349
kvergara@kpmg.com



Jozette Issel G. Dizon
Director
Tel. + 63 (2) 8885 7000 ext. 8581
jgdizon@kpmg.com

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The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in the Philippines.

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