

Proposed Plan for Visa Procedures

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

As it is obvious, economic development is an important priority of the newly elected government in an effort to build upon the achievements of past 13 years. It is considered very important in order to attract foreign investment and provide more conveniences in this area.

To this end, in the cabinet meeting dated 22 Mezan 1393, chaired by HE Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior Affairs, Finance, Commerce and Industries, and Labor and Social Affairs were ordered to simplify the process of issuing visas of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to potential investors, business persons and other foreigners, and develop a proper plan and propose it to the next cabinet meeting.

In accordance with the above instructions, representatives of the mentioned ministries are proposing the following points in order to simplify the process for obtaining and renewal of visa for potential investors, businessmen and other foreigners, and to remove unnecessary bureaucracy in this process. These propositions are made in full conformity with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other relevant laws of the country, and due consideration to the geographical division, for this purpose, of countries into America, Europe, Australia, Middle East, Asia, neighboring countries as well as the Arab World and India. The following points are proposed:

1. For businesspersons and investors of large corporations, as determined by the consulates and political missions of Afghanistan abroad, three-year multiple-entry visas shall be issued in return for the relevant fees.
2. For businesspersons and investors who are nationals of American, European, Australian, Asian and Arabic countries, as determined by consulates and political missions of Afghanistan abroad, one-year multiple-entry visas shall be issued in return for the relevant fees.
3. For businesspersons and investors from neighboring countries, visas shall be issued according to the mutual agreements and practices between both parties.
4. Hereinafter, visas of all foreign nationals who carry ordinary passports, shall be renewed directly by the Passport Department of the Ministry of Interior Affairs in lieu of their work permits, valid company license, work experience, and other related documents, without the introduction letter from AISA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other bureaucratic processes within the various departments of the Ministry of Interior Affairs.
5. All government agencies that issue licenses to companies are obliged to submit updated lists of registered companies, in the shortest period of time, to the Passport Department of the Ministry of Interior and Consular Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
6. Henceforth, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs shall issue work permits for foreign employees without necessitating to obtain information from the Interpol Department of the Ministry of Interior. The Interpol Department of the Ministry of Interior Affairs is obliged to submit an updated list of those foreign nationals

who have been banned from entering Afghanistan to the Passport Department and Consular Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

7. The President and Vice President of foreign companies that are investing in Afghanistan shall be made exempt from obtaining work permits.
8. All political and consular representations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan abroad shall issue work visas for foreign applicants after reviewing and assuring good standing on the applicants' academic records, health conditions and retirement age, and in accordance with the laws of Islamic republic of Afghanistan.
9. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is obliged to submit an updated list of all issued work permits to the Passport Department of Mol.
10. If a foreign national's visa expires and he/she does not renew it, he/she shall be charged a penalty of \$10/day for each day overstayed for up to one month. If the period of overstay exceeds one month, the penalty shall increase to \$15/day. If the period of overstay reaches three month, the person shall be deported and charged a penalty of \$20/day for each day overstayed.
11. In order to promote tourism in the country, diplomatic and consular missions of Afghanistan shall issue tourist visas for a valid period of three months with two-month stay. This visa shall be extendable one time for a period of one month by the Passport Department. The Ministry of Information and Culture and the Passport Department are obliged to devise procedures and mechanisms for the renewal of such visas, and facilitate the travel of tourists to Afghanistan.
12. Visas for the spouses of Afghan nationals – both male and female – who are legally married, after the review of their marriage documents, shall be issued free of charge for a valid period of one year with multiple entry by the Passport Department.
13. In order to provide facilitation to foreigners and Afghan refugees returning home, offices of Directorate of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be established at Kabul International airport to conduct the following tasks:
 - Issuance of entry visa in international airports (at point of entry) for holders of the United Nations passport;
 - Services to Afghan refugees;
 - Issuance of entry visa at the airport for citizens of USA, Canada, Australia, Europe, Japan and Russia;
 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs can directly issue visas to individuals holding service and political passports in accordance with their staying time and purpose of the trip.
14. In case of any inconsistency with these plans, the law on travel and citizenship of foreign nationals shall be amended accordingly.