

FOLLOW-UP ADVISORY (English)
Ongoing Immigration Operations and Assistance for Voluntary Deportation

11 July 2018 - **The Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur wishes to remind Filipino nationals in Malaysia of the ongoing nationwide campaign on all illegal immigrants**, which intensified on July 1, after the Rehiring Program expired on June 30. It is anticipated that immigration operations will take place with more frequency than usual.

Malaysia strictly enforces its immigration laws. Persons arrested for immigration-related offenses, such as illegal entry, overstaying, working without the necessary permit, or possession of fake visa, undergo summary proceedings for about 10 to 15 days. Once the proceedings are completed, the Immigration Department sends notifications to concerned embassies regarding the arrest of their nationals. The summary proceedings also help verify the nationalities of detained persons. If found to be in violation of immigration laws, those detained are made to serve a minimum sentence of 2 to 6 months in prison. Once the sentence is served, said persons are processed for deportation.

The Embassy follows a standard procedure in extending assistance to Filipino nationals who have been found to violate Malaysian immigration laws. Once notified, the Embassy facilitates the issuance of travel documents, when necessary, for detained nationals. This entails an internal security vetting procedure followed by personal interviews for verification prior to the release of travel documents. As a matter of policy, the Embassy gives priority to the issuance of travel documents of minors, women (especially pregnant women), elderly, and those who are in otherwise vulnerable physical conditions. The Embassy also continues to make representations with Malaysian authorities to uphold and protect the rights of Filipino nationals affected by the ongoing immigration campaign.

The Embassy reminds Filipinos in Malaysia to carry with them their identification and legal documents at all times.

The Embassy also strongly encourages those who have been unable to secure valid permits under the recently concluded Rehiring Program to apply under the Voluntary Deportation Program, which is set to expire on August 30. Under this program, illegal immigrants who surrender voluntarily can be issued an exit pass by the Malaysian Immigration Department upon the payment of RM 400 (RM 300 penalty plus 100 RM for the one-way pass), and do not have to serve jail time nor pay high compound. The Embassy is ready to extend free advice and assistance, including the issuance of travel documents, to those who opt to avail themselves of this program. They may proceed to the **ATN Unit** at the Embassy, or contact us at klpe_malaysia@yahoo.com or +603 2148 4233 ext 114.

This advisory is being issued for the guidance of Filipinos in Malaysia, as well as their families and friends, on the prevailing situation in Malaysia and the assistance that can be extended by the Embassy. END