



Republika ng Pilipinas  
**KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN**  
*Department of Justice*  
*Manila*

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 11**

**TO : All Concerned**

**SUBJECT : Suspension of Receipt of Applications for Special Non-immigrant Visas under Section 47(a)(2) of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, and Applications for Recognition of Refugee Status and Statelessness**

**DATE : 13 March 2020**

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This Department Circular is issued in relation to the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary issued on 14 March 2020<sup>1</sup> authorizing the Executive Branch, in areas under general community quarantine such as National Capital Region, to implement alternative working arrangements, and Department Circular No. 008 dated 13 March 2020<sup>2</sup>.

**1. PROCESSING OF 47(a)(2) VISAS APPLICATIONS**

The Legal Staff (Office of the Chief State Counsel) will temporarily operate with a skeletal workforce to ensure the **continuous processing of applications** for change of admission status from temporary visitor to, or for extension of stay as, special non-immigrants under Section 47(a)(2) of Commonwealth Act No. 613, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Immigration Act of 1940*", as amended, **received as of 13 March 2020**.

In view of the community quarantine, the Legal Staff (Office of the Chief State Counsel) will temporarily suspend the receipt of 47(a)(2) visa applications **from 16 March 2020 until 14 April 2020 or during the period that community quarantine is enforced**.

Applicants with no urgent need to process their 47(a)(2) visas are requested to defer the filing of their applications until such time that the community quarantine is lifted. Applicants whose 47(a)(2) visas will expire during the period of community quarantine are advised to file their

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<sup>1</sup> Subject: Stringent Social Distancing Measures and Further Guidelines for the Management of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation.

<sup>2</sup> Suspension of Reporting for Work and Social Distancing Measures in the Offices of the Department of Justice within the National Capital Region (NCR).

applications immediately after the lifting of the community quarantine. On the other hand, holders of other visas which will expire during the period of community quarantine and are applying for conversion to 47(a)(2) visa are advised to have their visas extended before the Bureau of Immigration.

## 2. APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION OF REFUGEE STATUS AND STATELESSNESS

For the same reason, the Legal Staff (Office of the Chief State Counsel), through the Department's Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Unit (RSPPU), will also temporarily suspend the receipt of applications for recognition of refugees and statelessness status.

For urgent concerns, the foreign nationals concerned are advised to contact the members or support staff of the RSPPU.

For strict compliance.

  
**MENARDO I. GUEVARRA**  
Secretary

Department of Justice  
CN: O202003138



OCSC: R/F/mla/pao

20200314 D.C. - Temporary Suspension of Processing of 47(a)(2) visas and RSPPU Matters