

Immigration Dept updates travel approval list

PUTRAJAYA: The Immigration Department has updated its list of procedures for Malaysians entering and exiting the country during the movement control order (MCO).

According to the list, Malaysian diplomats and their dependents, students leaving to continue their studies and those who have been offered a place to study abroad need not apply to the Immigration Department to depart.

Students going abroad to sit for examinations and Malaysians who are long-term pass holders of another country such as permanent residents also need not apply.

Also exempted are employees of petroleum and shipping companies who must sign on to the vessel abroad.

"They only need to present supporting documents to the Immigration officers when they want to leave the country," the department said in a statement yesterday.

It also listed five categories for which the department's approval is required before leaving Malaysia, namely Malaysians who return to the country during the MCO period, those who have received job offers and are travelling abroad for meetings, seminars, exhibitions and business, parents planning to accompany their children abroad for studies and those who need to travel due to an emergency.

"Travelling abroad for holidays and casual visits to family members living overseas is still not allowed for Malaysians," said the department.

It reiterated that it did not prohibit Malaysians from returning to the country, adding that they did not require permission to return.

"However, those who return are not allowed to leave the country again without permission even if they are holders of long-term passes of another country," it said.

Malaysians travelling from countries whose entry here has been prohibited are also allowed in, including those with long-term passes and those who left for the affected countries during the MCO.

Beginning Sept 7, Malaysia barred citizens from 23 nations who are long-term pass holders from entering the country.