



**NOTICE**

The Sri Lanka Consulate General Office in Dubai has been tirelessly and diligently coordinating various efforts and activities to support the Sri Lankan community in Dubai and Northern Emirates in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To date, the Consulate General office has distributed 1750 packs of dry rations benefiting more than 5000 adversely affected Sri Lankans in Dubai and Northern Emirates. The distribution process is continuing with the funds received from the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Relations as well as with the donations of community organizations and well-wishers.

The office continues to look after all the reported Covid 19 patients by immediately facilitating and coordinating with hospitals and arranging ambulance services for them to get urgent medical treatments. The patients are also assisted with the provision of medicine and supplements where necessary. Further, the Office has also set up a virtual group of Sri Lankan doctors living in Dubai with a view to extend possible medical advices and moral support to these patients. We are constantly in contact with these patients in order to get their health updates and to provide them with necessary needs.

Our priority is to arrange repatriation flights to all the affected Sri Lankans who have requested to be sent back to the motherland. However, considering the difficulties faced by the cancelled and expired visa holders with the delay in the repatriation process and the changes introduced by the UAE government, the Sri Lanka Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General Office in Dubai have made official requests from the UAE government authorities for an extension of the grace period they have declared on expired and cancelled visas. In addition, the Honourable Consul General on 28 July 2020 officially met with Sheikh Maktoum bin Butti Al Maktoum, the Head of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international Cooperation Dubai Office to discuss the situation of the expatriate Sri Lankans in the UAE and made a formal request in this regard. It is noted that the repatriation process is organized in coordination with the respective government authorities in Sri Lanka and the frequency of the repatriation flights depends on the availability of quarantine facilities in the country.

Our prioritized selection criteria for each repatriation flight will be on the basis of cancelled / expired visas, pregnant women, senior citizens, people with serious medical conditions who need urgent attention (need a doctor's note) and other various employment categories such as terminated, resigned and unpaid leave etc.

It is kindly informed that those who have already registered with this Consulate General or submitted their requests to be on a repatriation flight, are not required to walk in repeatedly in order to return to Sri Lanka. Please be informed that the number of your visits to this Office will not create any opportunity to be on a repatriation flight. A fair opportunity to walk into this Office for registration purposes should be given to those who have never registered with us.

Further, this Office should also follow the instructions given by the UAE authorities with regard to social distancing during this COVID-19 period as a preventive mechanism. Your understanding and cooperation on this are much appreciated.

We once again assure all members of the Sri Lankan community that we will continue to render all assistance to you in this difficult situation. We hope that the situation will soon become conducive for passenger flights to Sri Lanka to operate. We all have to fight this pandemic together and strengthen the hands of each other in arriving at solutions which are beneficial for everyone.