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THE ALIENS ACT

THE ALIENS (UNITED ARAB EMIRATES) DIRECTIONS, 2020

WHEREAS section 17 of the Aliens Act ("the Act") provides that the Minister may direct that any person or class of persons shall be exempt either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as the Minister may impose from all or any of the provisions of the Act:

AND WHEREAS section 6(h) of the Act provides that leave shall not be given to an alien to land in the Island unless the Alien is a national of a country with which an agreement for the mutual abolition of visas is in force:

AND WHEREAS a Mutual Visa Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the United Arab Emirates was signed in September 22, 2019 ("the Agreement") with the objective of facilitating travel between Jamaica and the United Arab Emirates and to encourage the movement of capital and labour between Jamaica and the United Arab Emirates:

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to give effect to the terms of the Agreement to provide for, *inter alia*, visa free entry of a national of the United Arab Emirates into Jamaica:

NOW, THEREFORE, in the exercise of the power conferred upon the Minister by section 17 of the Act, and of every other power hereunto enabling, the following directions are given:—

1. These Directions may be cited as the Aliens (United Arab Emirates) Directions, 2020.

2. In these Directions—

“diplomatic passport” means a passport issued by the United Arab Emirates to—

- (a) a person who represents the United Arab Emirates in diplomatic or international affairs; or
- (b) the family member of a person referred to in paragraph (a) who is accompanying the person on travel;

“family member” means the wife, unmarried daughter and underaged child of a person who holds a passport issued by the United Arab Emirates;

“ordinary passport” means a passport, other than an official or a diplomatic passport, issued by the United Arab Emirates to a national of the United Arab Emirates;

“official passport” means a passport issued by the United Arab Emirates to a government official of the United Arab Emirates who represents the interests of the United Arab Emirates overseas;

“Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency” means the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency designated under paragraph 2(b) of the Executive Agencies (Passport, Immigration and Citizenship) (Designation of Executive Agency) Order, 2009;

“special passport” means a passport issued by the United Arab Emirates to a person delegated to represent the United Arab Emirates at conferences, meetings, exhibitions and international organizations.

3. These Directions shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of commencement, and shall be automatically renewed for a further five years unless otherwise directed by the Minister.

4.—(1) A national of the United Arab Emirates who holds a diplomatic passport or a special passport, which has a remaining validity of not less than six months, shall be granted visa free entry into Jamaica to stay for a maximum period of ninety days.

(2) A national of the United Arab Emirates who holds an ordinary passport, which has a remaining validity of not less than six months—

- (a) shall be granted a visa upon arrival and payment of the requisite visa fees, to stay in Jamaica for an initial period of thirty days; and
- (b) may apply and pay the requisite visa fee to the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency for an extension of stay to remain in the Island for a maximum period of ninety days.

5.—(1) A national of the United Arab Emirates who holds a diplomatic, an official or a special passport shall be allowed to enter, remain, transit or depart Jamaica without a visa during the period of assignment, if the person is—

- (a) on assignment from the United Arab Emirates and performs functions in his respective diplomatic mission or consular office; and
- (b) accredited in accordance with subparagraph (2) as a member of the staff of the diplomatic mission or consular office.

(2) The Ministry with responsibility for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates shall, in relation to the person referred to in subparagraph (1), issue a notification of accreditation in accordance with Article 10 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and Article 10 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 to the Ministry with responsibility for foreign affairs in Jamaica no later than thirty days after the date of entry of that person in Jamaica.

(3) A family member who resides in the household of a person referred to in subparagraph (1) shall, during the period of assignment of the person, be allowed to enter, remain, transit or depart Jamaica, without a visa.

6.—(1) A national of the United Arab Emirates who holds a valid diplomatic, official or special passport, shall change his visa status at the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency, if the person intends to—

- (a) remain in Jamaica for a period exceeding ninety days;
- (b) study in Jamaica; or
- (c) participate in a business or engage in remunerated activity in Jamaica.

(2) A national of the United Arab Emirates who holds an ordinary passport shall change his visa status at the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency if the person intends to—

- (a) remain in Jamaica for a period exceeding ninety days;
- (b) study in Jamaica; or
- (c) participate in a business or engage in remunerated activity in Jamaica.

7.—(1) The visa requirements established under these Directions do not restrict the right of Jamaica to deny, revoke or shorten the stay of a national of the United Arab Emirates under the Act.

(2) A national of the United Arab Emirates who is covered under these Directions is not exempt from observing the laws of Jamaica during the period of his stay in the Island.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 2020.

HORACE CHANG, MP
Minister of National Security.

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