



TRAVEL ADVISORY NUMBER 18

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS TO SOLOMON ISLANDS

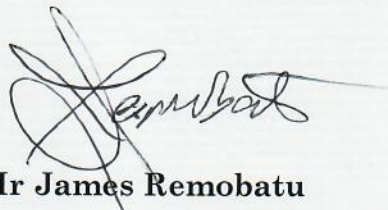
The Solomon Islands Government wish to inform Non – Solomon Islands Citizens planning to travel to Solomon Islands during the COVID-19 Pandemic period to take note of this latest travel advisory. This travel advisory provides the process for applying for exemption to enter the country during this period. It further explains and update the provisions made in Travel Advisory number 17, (21) issued on 5th March 2021. It is important that all non-Solomon Islands Citizens take heed of the process outlined in this advisory so that they can plan their travels in advance.

Guidelines for Processing Applications for Non – Solomon Islands Citizens

- 1) In Travel Advisory number 17, a **processing fee** of USD 100 per application to enter the country was imposed on foreign nationals that are not covered under paragraph (2) below. Due to challenges dealing with varying exchange rates this fee has now been amended and published in the gazette as **SBD 1,000.00** for each individual application.
- 2) Non-Solomon Islands Citizens that fall under the following categories are exempted from paying the processing fee:
 - a. Diplomatic missions and their associated programs
 - b. Agreed bilateral programmes
 - c. Agreed priority national projects
 - d. Programs covered under established Regional, International and Multilateral partnerships
 - e. State Owned Enterprises (SOEs)
 - f. UN Agencies
- 3) Non-Solomon Island Citizens that do not fall under any of the categories stated in (2) above are required to pay a processing fee of **SB\$1,000.00** per application.
- 4) The processing fees must be paid at the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT) at the time of submitting the application.

- 5) Each application must be submitted together with the receipt of payment from the Treasury before it is assessed by the Oversight Committee's Foreign Nationals Sub-committee.
- 6) All applications received from the non-exempted individuals on or after 19 April 2021 will pay the processing fee.
- 7) All approvals that are published in the Gazette on or after 19 April 2021 will pay the processing fees.
- 8) Any new application that is not accompanied by the receipt of payment WILL NOT BE ASSESSED until payments are made.
- 9) The \$1,000 Assessment fee is NON-REFUNDABLE, regardless of the outcome of the assessment.
- 10) The payments can be made by the local representative of the person(s) applying to enter the country.
- 11) This processing fee will remain in place for as long as travel restrictions and border quarantine remain enforced under the State of Public Emergency or other relevant legislations.
- 12) For persons applying under commercial or private companies, the following documents must be submitted:
 - a. Application Letter
 - b. Official Treasury Receipt
 - c. Valid work permit
 - d. Long -term visa
 - e. Passport biodata page
- 13) For those applying under humanitarian grounds the following documents must be submitted:
 - a. Application Letter
 - b. Official Treasury Receipt
 - c. Dependency visa
 - d. Passport biodata page
 - e. Any related supporting documents
- 14) All applicants must submit the required documents before their applications can be processed and considered for approval.

- 15) Any incomplete application will be held in abeyance until all the required documentations are submitted for consideration.
- 16) All applications must be addressed and submitted electronically to the Chair of the Oversight Committee, Secretary to Cabinet, Mr James Remobatu, Office of the Prime Minister & Cabinet at jremobatu@pmc.gov.sb and copied to the Chair of the Subcommittee on the Exemption of Foreign Nationals, Deputy Secretary, Mr Cornelius Walegereia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade at Cornelius.Walegereia@mfaet.gov.sb
- 17) Applicants are advised it takes 6 weeks from receipt of applications to the publishing of the Gazette for those that are approved to enter the country. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within the six-week period. DO NOT call for result unless you do not receive a response by end of 6 weeks of submitting your application.
- 18) The Solomon Islands Government wish to reiterate that non-Solomon Islands Citizens must take heed of the processes outlined in this travel advisory when applying for exemption to enter the country during this challenging period of COVID-19 Pandemic.



Mr James Remobatu
Secretary to Cabinet and Chair of OSC

19 April 2021