



## NEW ZEALAND'S IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2009

The Embassy of New Zealand has notified the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on the country's new immigration legislation (Immigration Act of 2009), which features some changes to the country's immigration terminology. The new Immigration Act, which will be implemented on November 2010, modernizes New Zealand's immigration laws. However, the law does not make major changes to the criteria under which Filipinos apply to enter and stay in New Zealand. The salient changes on the new Act include the following:

- Filipinos who are holders of New Zealand permanent residence will not be materially affected by the new immigration legislation.
- No fees will be charged to Filipino nationals who apply for a visitor visa or a student visa for visits not exceeding 59 days.
- Fees will be charged to Filipinos who lodge their applications in New Zealand for residence status, visit, work or study.
- The terms "visa" and "permit" will be replaced by the single term "visa."
- Returning resident's visa (this is the visa of foreigners who are resident in New Zealand and are allowed to travel in and out of the country) will be replaced by travel conditions on an individual's resident visa or permanent resident visa. Holders of returning resident's visas will continue to be allowed to travel in and out of New Zealand based on the conditions attached to the said visa.

The Embassy of New Zealand also informed DOLE on the upcoming changes to the country's immigration policy particularly on the possibility of issuance of multiple journey visa to frequent visitors to New Zealand provided that their visits totaled not more than nine (9) months in any eighteen (18)-month period and that they have not been in New Zealand for more than nine (9) months in the preceding eighteen (18)-month period.

Currently, Filipino nationals may be issued a multiple journey visa for travel for up to six (6) months from the date of issue for as long as the applicant's passport remains valid and the applicant meets the normal visitor requirements on health and characters, among others.