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Note No: 632-2013

The Australian Embassy presents its compliments to the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and has the honour to refer to the proposed Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals (UMAs) Interview Delegation.

In response to the Department's Note no. 1345/XNC of concerning the three-member delegation to travel to Australia for the purpose of identity verification of Vietnamese UMAs, Australia's Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) provides the following information concerning the conditions and entitlements that will be provided to the delegation members:

1. Business-class return air-travel between Vietnam and Australia, and all transportation within Australia will be provided by DIAC.
2. Australian visas will be arranged for delegation members as required. To facilitate this it would be appreciated if the Department could passport scans of the intended delegation members as soon as possible.
3. All efforts will be made to arrange self-catering accommodation at each destination however in some locations such facilities may not be available. Early advice of the dates for the delegation will assist with making these arrangements.
4. Official Australian government travel allowance rates will be provided to delegation officials. As advised in previous correspondence, these rates are the same as those that are available for DIAC officials traveling for business purposes. This rate is AUD 116.23 per day and comprised of the following:
 - a. Breakfast - \$24.35
 - b. Lunch - \$27.35
 - c. Dinner - \$46.70
 - d. Incidentals - \$17.83
5. Consistent with official Australian government travel policy, in circumstances where meals are provided as part of the travel, for example at the detention centres, official dinners, sight-seeing packages, the relevant meal allowance is deducted from the travel allowance payable for that day. Where no meals are provided then the full travel allowance amount will be paid. A program will be developed to identify where meals are to be provided once dates have been decided.
6. All accommodation costs, with the exception of personal expenses such as mini-bar, phone calls and in house videos will be paid for by the Australian Government during the delegation's stay in Australia. Visiting delegates will be responsible for paying for all their personal expenses: including but not limited to those items above
7. A Vietnamese citizen DIAC staff member from the Embassy will travel with the delegation to act as interpreter during work hours. Other Australian based interpreters will also be provided as necessary.

8. DIAC is unable to provide travel or health insurance for foreign officials who travel to Australia. However, in the event that Vietnamese officials are unable to purchase the necessary travel or health insurance and to ensure an acceptable outcome for both DIAC and the Vietnamese government, DIAC is prepared to reimburse reasonable expenses for insurance premiums. This would be on the basis that any claims and resolution would be the responsibility of the Vietnamese Government or official through the insurance provider.
9. Usage of telephone, office equipment and interview rooms as requested will be arranged.
10. At least one proposed venue, Yongah Hill, is in country Western Australia. This will have some impact on possibilities for accommodation, work hours and travel times between venue and accommodation. Where possible DIAC will endeavour to meet all of the delegation's requirements and will ensure comfort is well-managed. The same issues, and level of accommodation, will feature for Australian officers accompanying the delegation and working at this location.
11. Interview guidelines for visiting delegations in Australia have been developed in response to an independent review and subsequent findings by Australia's Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) in 2008. The review occurred following an incident in an interview between clients and foreign officials where Australia was found to be in breach of its international obligations. ^{ss 33(a)(iii), 33(b)}

12. From the Australian government's viewpoint, the primary objective of the interviews is to confirm identity and issue travel documents for Vietnamese nationals who have no lawful right to remain in Australia. ^{s 47E(d)}

^{s 47E(d)}

^{ss 33(a)(iii), 33(b)}

^{ss 33(a)(iii), 33(b), 47E(d)}

13. ^{s 47E(d)}

14. DIAC will organise sightseeing for the Delegation and the details of this will be arranged once a final itinerary and dates have been decided.

The Department's favourable consideration to these conditions would be highly appreciated. The Embassy and DIAC are very keen to ensure that the proposed delegation to Australia takes place as soon as possible in order that the process of returning Vietnamese UMAs to Vietnam can take place as efficiently as possible.

The Australian Embassy avail itself of this opportunity to renew to the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the assurances of its highest consideration.

HANOI
28 June 2013

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Note No: 835-2013

The Australian Embassy presents its compliments to the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and has the honour to refer to the following matter in relation to interviews of Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals by the Department's delegation.


ss 33(a)(iii), 33(b)



s 33(a)(iii)




ss 33(a)(iii), 33(b), 47E(d)




The Embassy also highly values its deep relationship with the Ministry of Public Security, and the Immigration Department in particular, and the significant investments they have made to bring the delegation to Australia to verify the identities and nationality of persons believed to be Vietnamese nationals.

ss 33(a)(iii), 33(b)



The Australian Embassy avail itself of this opportunity to renew to the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the assurances of its highest consideration.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



HANOI

20 August 2013

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