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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2024, RAJAB 21, 1445
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UAE ENDS BUREAUCRACY

2,000 PROCEDURES TO BE CANCELLED; SERVICE DURATIONS TO BE REDUCED BY 50 PER CENT

DUBAI

BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

In a landmark decision yesterday, the UAE launched the Zero Government Bureaucracy (ZGB) programme to cancel 2,000 government procedures and remove unnecessary bureaucracy procedures within a year.

Government entities have been tasked with the immediate implementation of the programme.

Rolling out the initiative, His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said: "Procedures are intended to serve people and make their lives easier. Bureaucracy is the main challenge facing any government seeking to develop its services. I will review the development achieved by government entities to assess their progress."

Speaking during a session of the ZGB programme, Shaikh Mohammad added, "Within a year, we will announce the results. The elimination of government bureaucracy and the rapid delivery of services are the two pillars of our future strategy."

Bonus for entities

Shaikh Mohammad also announced an incentive of



Courtesy: Dubai Media Office

Shaikh Mohammad during a session of the Zero Government Bureaucracy programme yesterday. The programme was launched in the presence of 30 government entities.

Shaikh Mohammad also announced an incentive of Dh1 million for government employees or teams that excel in removing unnecessary bureaucratic procedures.

Dh1 million for government employees or teams that excel in removing unnecessary bureaucratic procedures. The ZGB programme was launched in the presence of 30 federal government entities.

He reiterated that the UAE

government's core purpose is to raise the quality of life of the country's people. He emphasised the importance of government entities evolving their services and adopting highly efficient business models focused on cutting bureaucracy

to achieve the nation's goal of leading the world in government service excellence.

The session featured the participation of ministers and over 300 leaders from the government and private sectors.

Shift in operations

During the session, Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, emphasised that the UAE government has adopted an approach focused on minimising

BIG LEAP

The programme is set to develop simpler, quicker and more efficient government procedures. By focusing on the consolidation of similar procedures, the removal of superfluous steps, and the acceleration of service delivery, the UAE government will make a leap in the administration of its procedures.

300

leaders from government and private sectors attended the session

government bureaucracy as part of continuously developing its services.

He said that the ZGB programme is designed to create a significant shift in government operations, by providing the simplest, fastest, easiest, and most efficient procedures. The initiative is focused on raising the competitiveness of economic sectors and the business environment, as well as enhancing the community's quality of life.

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Emirates ensures smooth visa-free Indian arrivals

New service enables passengers to skip queues when arriving in Dubai

DUBAI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

Dubai's flagship carrier, Emirates, has launched a pre-approved visa-on-arrival facility for Indian passport holders who have booked their travel with the airline.

Fulfilled by the Dubai Visa Processing Centre (DVPC) and issued as a 14-day single entry visa, the new service will enable airline passengers to skip queues when arriving in Dubai. This would simplify arrival formalities for Indian passengers.

The service is exclusively available to Indian passport holders with a valid six-month US visa, US Green Card, EU residency, or UK residency. Moreover, the issuance of visas remains at the absolute discretion of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreign Affairs (GSRFA), said Emirates.

The service is being provided by VFS Global, the official

document collection and processing agency for several nations worldwide. DVPC is VFS Global's facility designated by the Emirates and Dubai governments to process UAE visas via its online portal linked to Emirates' official website.

Travellers can book their flights through emirates.com or their preferred travel agent. Customers should click the 'apply for a UAE visa' link after retrieving their booking.

They will be redirected to the online UAE Visa application site powered by VFS Global Services. Previously, travelers had to land in the UAE and obtain the visa from the Marhaba counter at the airport. With the new service, the pre-approval process can be completed online on the Emirates website in partnership with VFS Global. The service costs \$69.

The service is exclusively available to Indian passport holders with a valid six-month US visa, US Green Card, EU Residency, or UK Residency.

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