

## **PUBLIC ADVISORY**

Indian citizens living in Malaysia are advised to apply for urgent re-issuance of their passports in the following cases:-

### **(i) HANDWRITTEN PASSPORTS**

**The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has set a deadline of the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 for globally phasing out of all non-Machine Readable Passports (MRPs).** From the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 onwards, foreign Governments may deny Visa or entry to any person travelling on a non-Machine Readable Passport.

The Government of India has been issuing Machine Readable Passports since 2001. However, the **Passports issued before 2001** and particularly those issued during mid 1990s with a validity of 20 years will fall in the category of non-MRPs. **All handwritten passports with pasted photographs** are also considered non-MRPs. By the end of November 2014, it is estimated that there are approximately 286 thousand handwritten passports in circulation.

**Indian citizens residing in Malaysia and holding such passports with validity beyond the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 are advised to apply for re-issue of their passports** well before the deadline in order to avoid any inconvenience in obtaining valid visa for international travel.

### **(ii) PASSPORTS VALID FOR LESS THAN SIX MONTHS**

Many international travellers may not realise that having an unexpired passport is sometimes not enough to obtain Visas or to enter certain foreign countries. **Indian citizens travelling on Passports which may expire in less than six months should renew their passports** before any upcoming international travel. It is especially important to check the passports needs of any minor who may be accompanying their parents as passports for minors have a shorter validity period (5 years) than passports for adults (10 years). The universal practice in vogue now is; **“Once your passport crosses the nine-year mark, it is time to get new passport”**.

### **(iii) EXHAUSTION OF VISA PAGES**

Some countries do not accept passports which may have fewer than two pages remaining. **Please check your passport to ensure that you have enough visa pages. There is no provision of additional booklets/pages and you will be required to apply reissuance of passport following standard procedures.** Frequent travellers may opt for Jumbo Passport containing 64 pages.

2. For more details related to passport services, kindly check website [www.indianhighcommission.com.my](http://www.indianhighcommission.com.my)