

EXPATS SAY DECISION WILL ATTRACT TALENT



Yousuf Ali MA, Chairman and managing director of LuLu Group

"A welcome and timely initiative that is sure to have a very positive impact on socio-economic fabric of this great country. As I earlier said, this decision will further boost the UAE's image as one of the most inclusive and tolerant nations in the world. More investors and professionals will now be able to come to the UAE with a long-term vision. This will spur growth in almost all business sectors"

Prasanth Manghat, CEO and executive director of NMC Health

"The recent announcement by the UAE enabling meritorious investors and entrepreneurs to get a 10-year and five-year residence visa respectively is surely a welcome move and is in line with brand UAE's positioning of a global business hub. Achieving higher goals on the Global Competitive Index by constructing the pillars for the economy to grow beyond oil reserves and on the foundation of infrastructure, healthcare and education is a right step forward."



Padmanabha Acharya, President, Indian Business and Professional Group

"The extended visa period will provide investors and professionals stability and confidence in the UAE as an investment and work destination. Currently the criteria for getting a visa in the category of investor in public investment is Dh10 million. Investment in property of Dh5 million also entitles a person to a five-year visa. To stimulate the real estate market, the government should consider reducing this amount."

Dr Sahera Bleibleh, Assistant professor, UAE University

"Research can take several years to complete and a 10-year visa will let academics concentrate on their work without having to worry about whether they will be able to complete their research or not. Long-term stability allows academics to establish roots, which is positive for them both personally and professionally, and the UAE will gain a lot from the scientists and their discoveries."



Ali Al Dameh, Consultant general surgeon, Emirates Speciality Hospital

"I welcome the prospect of a 10-year visa. I will definitely apply for it and I know many other health care professionals will apply for it. It will provide us the opportunity to give the best of our knowledge and expertise to this country we have chosen to be part of."

Dr Dana Al Hamwi clinical dietician and owner of the Dana Diet Centre

"In the six years that I have practised as a clinical dietician, I have gained over 3,000 clients and have nearly 500 successful testimonials. This visa will make the immigration process easier and hassle-free and give me a chance to make a long-term commitment in the UAE."



Shailesh Dash, entrepreneur and financier

"This is positive and encouraging for entrepreneurs and will certainly go a long way in attracting talent and capital to the country. It should be followed up with an enabling environment for entrepreneurs for fundraising and creating infrastructure to help their businesses to be successful."

Brandon Sookdeo, student, University of South Wales, Dubai

"I was attracted to study aircraft maintenance engineering at USW Dubai because of career opportunities. The new visa regime for exceptional students in the UAE gives me an

