



**High Commission of India
Lilongwe (Malawi)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Deadline for Conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards

Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme was withdrawn by the Government of India and was merged with Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card scheme in 2015. PIO cards are handwritten whereas the new OCI cards are machine readable. International Civil Aviation Organisation will accept only machine readable travel documents from **October, 2018**. The existing PIO cards which are handwritten will, therefore, become invalid travel documents from October, 2018 and PIO cardholders travelling to India on handwritten PIO cards will be refused entry at not only Indian immigration counters but also Immigration Check posts at other centres. Hence, it is necessary for all PIO cardholders to obtain machine readable OCI cards in lieu of existing hand written PIO cards as soon as possible to avoid any inconvenience.

It is mentioned that the submission of the application for registration as OCI cardholder in lieu of the existing PIO card is on **gratis basis** up to **December 31, 2017**. The Conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards would not require any extra scrutiny or additional documentation except for the requirements of copies of the foreign passport and the existing PIO card. For more information regarding conversions of PIO to OCI please visit our website: www.hcililongwe.in.

All PIO cardholders in Malawi are requested to apply for OCI cards free of charge before the prescribed deadline. i.e. 31st December, 2017. Any request for conversion of PIO card to OCI card after the expiry of the current deadline, will attract a fee of US\$ 275 which is same as charged for issuance of fresh OCI card.

Dated: 21/11/2017



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