

# *Cuba's provisions in the area of immigration are welcome*

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By Roberto Morejón

Welcome, satisfaction, opinions that this is a fair measure. These are some initial reactions inside and outside Cuba to provisions adopted by Havana in the migratory sphere.

Through social networks and in statements to the press, several Cubans, residents in the archipelago and abroad, offered positive opinions about the recent announcements.

With an effective date of July 1, the authorities of the largest of the Antilles extended the validity of passports to 10 years for those over 16, and 5 years for minors.

They also eliminated the requirement to extend the validity of this document and reduced its cost in consulates abroad.

Among the first signs of the new clarifications, those concerning a benefit for the economy of the families of Cubans living abroad stand out, apart from easing bureaucratic procedures.

The measure to equalize the length of stay in the Caribbean nation of Cubans residing in other countries and their foreign relatives, if they are spouses and children, attracted attention.

For some, this step was a wise move when the number of cooperation, business and investment projects presented by Cubans living outside their homeland, interested in contributing to local development, is increasing.

At first sight, as pointed out by several people, the reported regulations highlight the determination of the Cuban government to address the concerns of its nationals.

In addition to the above, the announcements highlight the official will to continue with the strengthening of ties among Cubans regardless of their place of residence.

In the light of the new measures, there were also those who expressed their longing for a better relationship between the United States and the largest of the Antilles, the nations of residence and origin, respectively, of those who expressed this line of thought.

In the midst of a policy resolutely focused on strengthening Cuba's ties with its natives abroad, in the land of José Martí, beneficial practices have just been adopted for families, wherever they may be, in spite of the barriers erected by the U.S. blockade.

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