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**Cuban restarts consular services in several countries**

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By: PL

13/06/2020



Havana, June 13 (Prensa Latina) Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez reported on Saturday that the island's Consulates are resuming their services in those countries where health conditions allow it.

The foreign minister said on his Twitter account that in all cases the necessary security measures are taken to avoid contagion with Covid-19.

He indicated that this reopening does not eliminate the extension of the permit to stay abroad to those citizens who, as a result of the pandemic, have not been able to return to their country in 24 months.

On March 19, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba announced that, in view of the serious international epidemiological situation, the Cuban Consulates abroad would promote remote procedures.

In addition, it was approved that passports be issued without having to visit the offices and the obligation to request extensions to remain outside Cuba after 24 months was eliminated, without affecting the status of permanent resident.

During this time, the Consulates have maintained contact with the Cuban community abroad and have worked for the return of those stranded in other countries.

More than 3,500 Cubans have returned from 35 nations, the Foreign Affairs Minister said recently, weighing the humanitarian flights and efforts organized by government officials and their counterparts.

In the face of the complex epidemiological situation, no effort or resources have been spared in protecting citizens, stressed Rodríguez, who also thanked the authorities of Germany, Ecuador, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Russia.

