



home affairs

Department:
Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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TO: **ALL OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION
VFS GLOBAL**

IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 16 OF 2024

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY CONCESSION IN RESPECT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN LIGHT OF A CONTINUED BACKLOG IN PROCESSING OUTCOMES ON WAIVER APPLICATIONS, VISA APPLICATIONS AND APPEAL APPLICATIONS

The Department of Home Affairs (the "Department") has, since issuing its previous communication in the above regard, made a significant impact in addressing the backlog in its visa and permitting regime backlog. However, whilst the backlog in the visa area has been eliminated, the outcomes of applications will not be ready for collection by 12 December 2024, when the festive season starts. Furthermore, a backlog in the appeals area and permanent residence permit applications still persists. The following temporary measures will apply with immediate effect.

APPLICANTS WHOSE WAIVER APPLICATION OUTCOMES ARE STILL PENDING

Visa holders, who have applied for a waiver and whose waiver application is still pending as of 30 November 2024, are granted a further temporary extension until 31 March 2025 to enable the Department to process the applications, as well as to allow for applicants to collect their outcomes and submit applications for the appropriate visas. For those applicants who wish to abandon their waiver applications and depart from the Republic of South Africa ("the "Republic"), such applicants should be allowed to depart from the Republic before or on 31 March 2025 without being declared undesirable as contemplated in section 30(1)(h) of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002) (the "Immigration Act"), read with regulation 27(3) of the Immigration Regulations, 2014 (the "Regulations"). Visa holders, who need to travel but are awaiting the outcome of a waiver applications, should be allowed to depart and re-enter the Republic at a port of entry up to and including 31 March 2025 without being declared undesirable as contemplated in section 30(1)(h) of the Immigration Act, read with regulation 27(3) of the Regulations.

However, non-visa exempt applicants who travel out of the country with a waiver application receipt are required to apply for a port of entry visa, which would allow them re-entry into the Republic.

APPLICANTS WHOSE VISA APPLICATIONS ARE STILL PENDING

Visa holders, who have applied for long-term visas, for example, visitor's visas in terms of section 11(1)(b) and 11(6) of the Immigration Act, business visas, study visas, relative's visas and work visas, and the visa application is still pending as at 30 November 2024, are granted a further temporary extension until 31 March 2025 of the current visa status. Applicants are not allowed to engage in any activity other than what the visa conditions provide for. Those who wish to abandon their visa applications should be allowed to depart from the Republic before or on 31 March 2025 without being declared undesirable as contemplated in section 30(1)(h) of the Immigration Act, read with regulation 27(3) of the Regulations. Visa holders who need to travel but are awaiting the outcome of a long-term visa application, should be allowed to depart from and re-enter the Republic up to and including 31 March 2025 without being declared undesirable as contemplated in section 30(1)(h) of the Immigration Act, read with regulation 27(3) of the Regulations. However, non-visa exempt applicants who travel out of the country with a long-term visa application receipt are required to apply for a port of entry visa, which would allow them re-entry into the Republic.

APPLICANTS WHOSE VISA APPEAL APPLICATIONS ARE STILL PENDING

Visa holders, who have appealed a negative decision on an application for a long-term visa, for example, those applying for visitor's visas in terms of section 11(1)(b) and 11(6) of the Immigration Act, business visas, study visas, relative's visas and work visas, are to be granted a temporary extension until 31 March 2025 of the current visa status. Applicants are not allowed to engage in any activity other than what the visa conditions provide for. Those who wish to abandon their visa appeal applications and depart from the Republic should be allowed to depart from the Republic before or on 31 March 2025 without being declared undesirable as contemplated in section 30(1)(h) of the Immigration Act, read with regulation 27(3) of the Regulations. Visa appeal applicants who need to travel but are awaiting the outcome of an appeal application for a long-term visa should be allowed to depart from the Republic and re-enter up to and including 31 March 2025 without being declared undesirable as contemplated in section 30(1)(h) of the Immigration Act, read with regulation 27(3) of the Regulations.

All appeal applicants are required to produce a copy of the rejection letter, together with a receipt indicating that such a person has submitted an appeal application, on departure and re-entry into the Republic. Non-visa exempt appeal applicants who travel out of the country with an appeal application receipt are required to apply for a port of entry visa, which would allow them re-entry into the Republic.

The above temporary measures will apply only to those foreigners who have been legally admitted into the Republic. This concession is also only applicable to applicants who have submitted an application via VFS Global and who can produce a verifiable receipt for such application against the VFS Global tracking system.



DR. L. A. SCHREIBER, MP
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

DATE: 13/12/2024