



**MINISTER OF  
HOME AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS :**

**HEAD OFFICE  
VISA FACILITATION CENTRES**

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL:  
RELATIONS & COOPERATION**

**CONSULAR SERVICES**

**IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO. 7 OF 2020**

**TEMPORARY MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN LIGHT OF THE  
COVID-19 EPIDEMIC**

Further to Immigration Directive No 03 of 2020, a copy of which is attached, and H.E. President MC Ramaphosa's statement on 15 March 2020 pertaining to measures to combat the Covid-19 Epidemic, I, in my capacity as Minister of Home Affairs, have introduced the following temporary measures on all foreign nationals who intends to enter the Republic of South Africa or who already entered the Republic.

**INBOUND TRAVELLERS**

- a) The visa exemption granted in terms of section 10A(4)(a) of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No 13 of 2002) ("the Act") enjoyed by high-risk nationals of Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, is hereby withdrawn in terms of section 10A(4)(c) of the Act. Therefore, any foreign national from the listed countries who proceeds to a port of entry without a valid port of entry visa will be refused entry into the Republic. No foreign national who departed from Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, the United States of America and the United Kingdom will be allowed to enter the Republic of South Africa, with effect from 18 March 2020.
- b) The visa exemption granted in terms of section 10A(4)(a) of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No 13 of 2002) ("the Act") enjoyed by medium-risk nationals of Portugal, Hong Kong and Singapore, is, also, hereby withdrawn in terms of section 10A(4)(c) of the Act. Any foreign national from these medium-risk countries (Portugal, Hong Kong and Singapore), who wishes to visit the Republic is with immediate effect and until further notice required to apply for a visa to visit South Africa at the South African Mission where they reside. They are required to submit a medical report attesting to the fact that the applicant has not tested positive to COVID-19.
- c) Any port of entry visa that was issued to a citizen of China and Iran before or on 15 March 2020 for the purpose of visiting the Republic are, in terms of section 10A(3)(c) of the Act is cancelled with immediate effect and declared null and void.

- e) Any foreign national whose passport contains evidence that he or she has visited Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, the United States of America, the United Kingdom or China since 15 March 2020, will not be issued with a port of entry visa or a temporary residence visa.

**FOREIGN NATIONALS ALREADY PRESENT IN THE REPUBLIC**

- f) Any foreign national who is already present in the Republic and originates from a country which is affected by the Covid-19 outbreak or who, in order to reach such destination of origin needs to transit a country which is affected by Covid-19, and whose temporary residence visa is due to expire or has already expired, will be allowed to re-apply for such a visa provided they meet all the prescribed requirements. Visas valid until 31 July 2020 may be issued to such applicants. Where an applicant is unable to meet one or more of the prescribed requirements for any temporary residence visa, he or she may apply to the Minister in the prescribed manner to waive such (a) requirement(s) as contemplated in section 31(2)(c) of the Act. Please note, however, that no application for change of status or conditions will be allowed.
- g) Any foreign national who originates from a country which is affected by the Covid-19 outbreak or who, in order to reach such destination of origin needs to transit a country which is affected by Covid-19, and who is the holder of a temporary residence visa which expired since 01 December 2019 and those which will be expiring up to 31 March 2020 will be allowed to re-apply for such a visa without the need to first obtain a FORM 20 (Authorization for an illegal foreigner to remain in the country pending an application for status).

The temporary measures mentioned in paragraphs f and g above will apply only to foreign nationals who have been legally admitted into the Republic and is applicable until further notice. Any modification or amendments will be communicated in writing.



**DR PA MOTSOALEDI, MP**  
**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**

DATE: 17/3/2020

This Immigration Directive follows Immigration Directive No.6 of 2020 which deals with: Directive on Inspectorate Standing Operating Procedures: Procedure when dealing with victims / suspected victims of trafficking.



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**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION**

**:**

**VISA FACILITATION CENTRES**

**IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 03 OF 2020**

**TEMPORARY VISA CONCESSION FOR CHINESE VISITORS AND WORKERS ON TEMPORARY RESIDENCE VISAS IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK**

Following the first reports of cases of acute respiratory syndrome in the Chinese Wuhan municipality at the end of December 2019, Chinese authorities have identified a novel coronavirus as the main causative agent. The outbreak has rapidly evolved affecting other parts of China and outside the country. Cases have now been detected in several countries in Asia, but also in Australia, Europe, North America and South Africa.

Many airlines have cancelled flights to China, while some countries have banned Chinese nationals from entering and have evacuated its own citizens from Wuhan. It is against this background that I, in my capacity as Minister of Home Affairs, have made the following temporary concessions:

- a) Intra-Company Transfer work visa: Chinese nationals whose intra-company transfer work visas are due to expire within the next six months (until 31 July 2020) will be allowed to re-apply for a visitor's visa in terms of section 11(1)(a) with authorisation to conduct work as contemplated in section 11(2) of the said Act from within the country, provided they meet all the prescribed requirements. The applicants who qualify will be issued with a visitor's visa for a period not longer than 180 days. No change of status or conditions will be allowed.
- b) Visitor's visas: Chinese nationals whose visitors' visas have reached maximum validity period and are technically unrenewable in terms of section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act will be allowed to apply for the same visa with same conditions for a period not longer than three months. No change of status or conditions will be allowed.
- c) Chinese nationals who are holders of temporary residence visas which expired since 01 December 2019 and those which will be expiring up to 29 February 2020 will be allowed to submit renewal applications for expired visas without the need to first obtain a FORM 20 ( Authorisation for an illegal foreigner to remain in the country pending an application for status).

This temporary visa concession is applicable only to Chinese nationals who were legally admitted into South Africa through a port of entry and will apply until the 31 of July 2020. Any further extension or modification or amendments to the terms of this concession will only be valid if communicated in writing.

  
**DR PA MOTSOALEDI, MP**  
**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**DATE: 17/7/2020**

This Immigration Directive follows Immigration Directive No. 2 of 2020 which deals with "Directive to Missions"



## home affairs

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### **PASSPORT HOLDERS WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM VISAS FOR SOUTH AFRICA**

#### **SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

1. The holder of a national South African passport, travel document or document for travel purposes does not require a port of entry visa to enter the country,
2. A staff member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) who travel on a SADC laissez-passer does not require a port of entry visa for bona fide official business visits up to 90 days and when in transit.
3. Holders of United Nations Laissez-passers; volunteers attached to the United Nations; persons involved in any United Nations agency and persons performing services on behalf of the United Nations, including their spouses, dependent relatives and other members of their households, do not require port of entry visas when visiting the Republic for periods not exceeding 90 days, including official visits, transit or when applying for accreditation for placement at a UN mission in the Republic: Provided they are in possession of the relevant letters or identification documents to identify themselves at ports of entry as personnel of a United Nations agency.
4. Members of foreign military forces attending any military related matters with the South African National Defence Force do not require port of entry visas or study visas, irrespective of their duration of stay, provided that they are in possession of valid passports and letters of invitation by the South African National Defence Force, as well as letters of consent from the military force of which they are members.
5. Foreign commercial heavy-duty vehicle drivers from Lesotho, Botswana, Kingdom of Eswatini, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi do not require port of entry visas when entering the Republic, provided their visits do not exceed the period for which their respective countries enjoy visa free entry and on condition that they can produce a letter confirming their employment with a transport company abroad. Visitor's visas in terms of section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act, with authorisation to conduct work in terms of section 11(2) of the said Act, may be issued for the period of the visa exemption status of the respective country, which period may not exceed 90 days at a time.
6. General Work Visas are not required by foreign commercial heavy duty vehicle drivers who are employed by South African companies and originate from countries which enjoy visa free movement into South Africa, on condition that they can produce a letter confirming their employment on entry. In accordance with a High Court ruling by the North Gauteng High Court on 31 March 2011, foreign commercial heavy duty vehicle drivers may be issued with visitor's visas in terms of section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act, with authorisation to conduct work in terms of section 11(2) of the said Act for the period of their countries' visa exemption status, which period may not exceed 90 days at a time.



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7. With effect from 18 December 2015 travellers, with the exception of deportees, who transit through O R Tambo International Airport; Cape Town International Airport; King Shaka International Airport and Lanseria International Airport do not require transit visas as contemplated in section 10B(4)(a) of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No 13 of 2002). However, transiting passengers will be subjected to biometric capturing. Deportees transiting at any port of entry are required to be in possession of a transit visa at all times and must be escorted.
8. The attached Schedule outlines national passport holders from countries who are exempt from port of entry visa requirements, the category of passport holders who are exempt from port of entry visa requirements and the period for which such visa exemption applies. Where a national passport holder of a specific country is required to be in possession of a port of entry visa to proceed to South Africa, the list also outlines whether or not an administrative processing fee is payable or not. **Please note that countries marked with an asterisk are only subject to visa fees if the intended visit exceeds thirty (30) days:**
9. All travellers to South Africa are advised that if you are the holder of a national passport of a country whose passport holders are exempt from visa requirements, but your individual visa exemption has been officially withdrawn, a port of entry visa application must be submitted through the South African Embassy/ High Commission/ Consulate General in your country of origin or of long-term residence.

**Issued on 18 March 2020**





## Visa Exemption List

COUNTRY NAME/ORGANISATIONS	Passport Type					Visa Fees
	Diplomatic	Official	Service	Ordinary	Special	
African Union Laissez Passer						No
Albania (Republic of)	120 Days	120 Days	120 Days			Yes
Algeria	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			No
Andorra (Principality of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Angola (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days P/A		Yes
Anguilla	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Antigua and Barbuda	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Argentina	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Australia	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Austria (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Bahamas				30 Days		Yes
Barbados	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Belarus (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Belgium	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Belize*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Benin (Republic of)*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Bermuda	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Botswana	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Brazil	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
British Antarctic Territory				90 Days		Yes
British Indian Ocean Territory	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
British Virgin Island	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Bulgaria (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Canada	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Cape Verde	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Cayman Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Chile	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
China (People's Republic of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
Comoros (Union of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Congo (Democratic Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Costa Rica	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Croatia (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Cuba (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Cyprus	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	30 Days		No
Czech Republic	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Denmark (Kingdom of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Ducie and Oeno Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes



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COUNTRY NAME/ORGANISATIONS	Passport Type					Visa Fees
	Diplomatic	Official	Service	Ordinary	Special	
Ecuador	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Egypt	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			No
Falkland Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Finland (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
France (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Gabon (Republic of)*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Ghana (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Gibraltar	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Greece (Hellenic Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Guernsey	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Guinea (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Guyana	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Henderson	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Hungary	120 Days	120 Days	120 Days	30 Days		No
Iceland (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
India	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			No
Indonesia (Republic of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
Ireland	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Isle of Man	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Israel	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Ivory Coast (Republic of Côte D'Ivoire)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
Jamaica	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Japan	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Jersey	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Jordan	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Kenya (Republic of)*	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland)	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Lesotho (Kingdom Of)	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Liberia	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Liechtenstein	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days		Yes
Macau				30 Days		No
Madagascar (Republic of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	90 Days P/A		Yes
Malawi	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Malaysia*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes



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	Diplomatic	Official	Service	Ordinary	Special	
Maldives	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Mali (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Malta	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Mauritius	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Mexico	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			No
Monaco (Principality of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Montserrat	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Morocco (Kingdom of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
Mozambique (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	30 Days		Yes
Namibia	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	90 Days P/A		No
Netherlands (The Kingdom of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days		Yes
New Zealand				90 Days		Yes
Niger	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Nigeria (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Norway	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Panama (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Paraguay	120 Days	120 Days	120 Days	90 Days		No
Peru	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Pitcairn Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Poland (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	30 Days		Yes
Qatar (State of)				90 Days		Yes
Romania	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Russian Federation	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Rwanda (Republic of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
SADC laissez-passers		90 Days				No
Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, Gough Island	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
San Marino (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
São Tomé and Príncipe (Democratic Republic of)				90 Days		Yes
Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of)				90 Days		Yes
Senegal	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			No
Seychelles	30 Days	30 Days		90 Days P/A		No
Slovak Republic	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			No
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Sweden	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Switzerland	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No





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	Diplomatic	Official	Service	Ordinary	Special	
Tanzania (United Republic of)	90 Days P/A	90 Days P/A		90 Days P/A		Yes
Thailand (Kingdom of)*	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	30 Days		Yes
Trinidad and Tobago (Republic of)				90 Days		Yes
Tunisia (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	Yes
Turkey (Republic of)*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Turks and Caicos Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Uganda (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
United Arab Emirates				90 Days		Yes
United Nations Lasse Passer	90 Days					No
Uruguay	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Vietnam (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Virgin Islands (British)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Zambia	90 Days P/A	90 Days P/A		90 Days P/A		No
Zimbabwe	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No

Special Notes	
<b>Diplomatic, Official and Service Passport holders do not pay VISA FEES</b>	
Angola (Republic of)	Each visit not to exceed 30 days
Kenya (Republic of)	Including civil servants holding ordinary passports travelling for official government business
Belize*	Please note that countries marked with an asterisk are only subject to visa fees if the intended visit exceeds thirty (30) days:
Benin (Republic of)*	
Gabon (Republic of)*	
Kenya (Republic of)*	
Malaysia*	
Thailand (Kingdom of)*	
Turkey (Republic of)*	