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# home affairs

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Home Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

**PRESENTATION TO  
THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENTS'  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITIES AND TOURISM .**

03 MAY 2023

# PURPOSE

Briefing by the Department of Home Affairs in response to the invitation by the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism (SCFEOT) to brief the Committee on:

- (i) The successes and challenges of its tourism readiness plan for the past 2022/23 tourism season,
- (i) The current status of e-visas system and;
- (i) the steps taken, in line with the Operation Vulindlela report to implement the Remote Working Visa.



To facilitate and regulate the secure movement of people through the ports of entry into and out of the Republic of South Africa, determine the status of asylum seekers and regulate refugee affairs, confirm and provide enabling documents to foreign visitors legally residing within the Republic, enforce immigration legislation and effect deportations.

## The core immigration mandate is to:

- **Facilitate** and **regulate** the secure movement of people through the ports of entry into and out of the Republic of South Africa;
- **Confirm** and provide enabling documents to foreign visitors legally residing within RSA;
- **Enforce** immigration legislation and effect deportations;
- **Determine** the status of asylum seekers and regulate refugee affairs; and
- **Contribute** towards realising a positive skills migration trend into the RSA.

## Legal Enablement

### **IMMIGRATION ACT No. 13 of 2002**

The *Immigration Amendment Act 13 of 2002 (as amended 2004, 2007 and 2011)* as well as Regulations promulgated in terms thereof which came into effect on 26 May 2014.

### **REFUGEES ACT No. 130 of 1998**

*Determination of refugee status and the issuance of refugee enabling documents*

### ***BORDER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY ACT, No 2 of 2020***

*Strengthen Border Control and give the Authority effective control at Ports of Entry*



# TOURISM READINESS: SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF DHA TOURISM READINESS PLAN FOR THE PAST 2022/23 TOURISM SEASON.

- ❑ Border Management Authority (BMA) Implementation with effect from 1 April 2023.
- ❑ Biometric Movement Control System (BMCS) implementation to enhance security and the ability to uniquely identify each traveller;
- ❑ Facilitation through self service Immigration e-Gates for SA passport holders at Cape Town International Airport;
- ❑ Challenges, e.g. smuggling of persons (Pakistanis, Bangladeshis) through ports of entry of the Republic; and improperly documented travellers who gain access to the courts on their arrival.
- ❑ Movement Statistics indicate a recovery to almost pre-COVID levels:

# All movements through all Ports of Entry Per month for the 2022/2023 financial year

Month	2022						2022 Total	2023						2023 Total	Grand Total
	Citizens		Citizens Total	Foreigners		Foreigners Total		Citizens		Citizens Total	Foreigners		Foreigners Total		
	Arrivals	Departures		Arrivals	Departures			Arrivals	Departures		Arrivals	Departures			
January							446 147	311 872	758 019	1 161 308	819 548	1 980 856	2 738 875	2 738 875	
February							250 068	264 734	514 802	847 232	727 583	1 574 815	2 089 617	2 089 617	
March							302 608	336 889	639 497	908 376	816 808	1 725 184	2 364 681	2 364 681	
April	265 659	289 844	555 503	593 183	529 186	1 122 369	1 677 872							1 677 872	
May	250 101	260 150	510 251	595 493	528 688	1 124 181	1 634 432							1 634 432	
June	245 556	306 986	552 542	603 352	529 380	1 132 732	1 685 274							1 685 274	
July	355 664	310 450	666 114	767 365	619 840	1 387 205	2 053 319							2 053 319	
August	291 271	313 649	604 920	848 881	723 339	1 572 220	2 177 140							2 177 140	
September	294 553	325 957	620 510	820 433	693 235	1 513 668	2 134 178							2 134 178	
October	326 641	304 031	630 672	846 702	726 093	1 572 795	2 203 467							2 203 467	
November	263 703	264 128	527 831	840 265	698 442	1 538 707	2 066 538							2 066 538	
December	383 591	518 636	902 227	1 003 378	969 901	1 973 279	2 875 506							2 875 506	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2 676 739</b>	<b>2 893 831</b>	<b>5 570 570</b>	<b>6 919 052</b>	<b>6 018 104</b>	<b>12 937 156</b>	<b>18 507 726</b>	<b>998 823</b>	<b>913 495</b>	<b>1 912 318</b>	<b>2 916 916</b>	<b>2 363 939</b>	<b>5 280 855</b>	<b>7 193 173</b>	<b>25 700 899</b>



home affairs

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Home Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# All movements - Top 10 Ports of Entry for the 2022/2023 financial year

Ports of Entry	Arrivals		Arrivals Total	Departures		Departures Total	Grand Total
	Citizens	Foreigners		Citizens	Foreigners		
Oliver Tambo International Airport	1 208 428	1 729 674	2 938 102	1 264 171	1 756 423	3 020 594	5 958 696
Lebombo	504 046	1 560 861	2 064 907	508 060	1 208 013	1 716 073	3 780 980
Beit Bridge	112 759	1 814 121	1 926 880	112 628	1 180 006	1 292 634	3 219 514
Cape Town International Airport	304 336	825 341	1 129 677	346 795	820 210	1 167 005	2 296 682
Ficksburg	216 751	845 921	1 062 672	220 923	679 216	900 139	1 962 811
Maseru Bridge	228 008	784 482	1 012 490	208 262	624 491	832 753	1 845 243
Oshoek	153 775	397 778	551 553	172 846	386 788	559 634	1 111 187
Kopfontein	98 819	249 989	348 808	103 737	249 866	353 603	702 411
Groblers Bridge	70 192	213 991	284 183	63 177	177 733	240 910	525 093
Caledonspoort	82 899	186 192	269 091	80 605	153 843	234 448	503 539
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2 980 013</b>	<b>8 608 350</b>	<b>11 588 363</b>	<b>3 081 204</b>	<b>7 236 589</b>	<b>10 317 793</b>	<b>21 906 156</b>



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Home Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# All movements - Top 10 nationalities for the 2022/2023 financial year

Nationality	Arrivals		Arrivals Total	Departures		Departures Total	Grand Total
	Citizens	Foreigners		Citizens	Foreigners		
SOUTH AFRICA	3 675 613	3 807 327	7 482 940				7 482 940
ZIMBABWE				2 188 740	1 564 718	3 753 458	3 753 458
LESOTHO				1 969 132	1 580 471	3 549 603	3 549 603
MOZAMBIQUE				1 508 463	1 210 224	2 718 687	2 718 687
SWAZILAND				771 190	714 154	1 485 344	1 485 344
BOTSWANA				488 138	485 907	974 045	974 045
UNITED KINGDOM				407 628	407 842	815 470	815 470
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA				362 822	361 542	724 364	724 364
GERMANY				249 260	238 514	487 774	487 774
NAMIBIA				192 620	191 596	384 216	384 216
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3 675 613</b>	<b>3 807 327</b>	<b>7 482 940</b>	<b>8 137 993</b>	<b>6 754 968</b>	<b>14 892 961</b>	<b>22 375 901</b>



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA




- MOU for sharing of information – Tourism Satellite Account
  - EMCS data shared with STATS SA & Tourism for analysis of South Africa’s global tourism markets. Going forward this will continue with BMCS;
- Parameters for identifying tourists should be used with care since many individuals entering for tourism later become illegal foreigners / asylum seekers.
- BMCS enhanced to make provision for better qualifying criteria i.e. Purpose of visit now further broken down into -
  - Holiday / Leisure / Recreation
  - Personal Shopping
  - Business shopping
- Implementation of e-Visa



## CURRENT STATUS WITH THE eVisa SYSTEM.

- ❑ In the year 2022/23 the Department continued to process eVisa applications for the 14 countries to which the e-Visa platform was rolled out.
- ❑ To date tourists from the following countries have access to the eVisa System:

 e Visa - Online VISA applications open for Nationals from KENYA, CAMEROON, IRAN, EGYPT, PHILIPPINES, SAUDI ARABIA, ETHIOPIA, PAKISTAN, DRC, MEXICO, INDIA, CHINA, NIGERIA and UGANDA who will land at OR Tambo International airport



- ❑ In the period up to March 2023, since the rollout, a total number of 12 377 visa applications have been processed on the DHA e-Visa Platform.
- ❑ The establishment of an e-Visa hub dedicated to the processing of eVisas has assisted a much effective turnaround time.
- ❑ The capacity of the e-Visa hub was recently boosted with the appointment of additional 18 adjudicators to work on the e-Visa platform.



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Department:  
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## CURRENT STATUS WITH THE eVisa SYSTEM.



[click to apply](#)

- ❑ The Department is also a contributor to the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan (TSRP) of the Department of Tourism.
- ❑ In terms of the TSRP, DHA is an enabler of the following enabler for the Dept. of Tourism: Partner with Relevant Departments to Ensure Improved Travel Facilitation through Implementation of eVisas, Tourist Safety, Airlift Capacity and Quicker Turnaround Times in the Processing of Tour Operator Licenses.
- ❑ Following a series of enhancements on the eVisa system the Department has now rolled out the eVisa platform to 20 more non-visa exempt countries, namely 20se are: Albania, Algeria, Belarus, Bulgaria,, Cuba, Comoros, Congo, Croatia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Lithuania, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Romania, Senegal and Slovak Republic.
- ❑ The eVisa system are also in the process of being upscaled to included Business, Study and Intra Company transfer visas.

# REMOTE WORKING VISA



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Department:  
Home Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# REMOTE WORKING VISA

- A comprehensive report on the review of the work visa system was recently handed over to the Presidency by the Operation Vulindlela Team led by former Director-General of Home Affairs, Mr. Mavuso Msimang.
- The Report makes recommendations with regards to the possibility of new visa categories that could enable economic growth, such as a start-up visa and a remote working visa.
- The Department of Home Affairs has drafted an Implementation Plan for the introduction of the Remote working visa as recommended by the OV Report.
- The Implementation Plan is attached on the next slide.



# REMOTE WORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

## VULINDELA REPORT: RECOMMENDATIONS AND DHA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Category	Recommendation	Description	Action required	Responsibility	Timeframe	Progress to date
	<b>Recommendation 8:</b> Introduce new visa categories to cater for remote workers and start-ups	8(a) Specify visa eligibility for remote workers	Specify requirements for a remote work visa and start-up visa (including for partners and children)	DHA	3 months	These new visa categories will be included in the revised Immigration Regulations to be published by the end of June 2023, subject to State Law Advisor approval and public consultation.
		8(b) Specify visa eligibility for start-up founders	Amend regulations 11 and 14 of Immigration Regulations	DHA	3 months	



# VISA EXEMPTIONS

- Exemption of visa requirements are provided for in section 10A(4)(a) of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No 13 of 2002) and is solely at the discretion of the Minister of Home Affairs.
- Exemption of visa requirements for diplomatic and official/service passport holders is dependent on diplomatic relations between the two countries and are initiated by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. Once the process is concluded, a formal visa waiver agreement is signed.
- Exemption of visa requirements for ordinary passport holders is based on the principle of reciprocity, concluded by means of an exchange of notes and depends on a number of factors, such as-
  - a. the number of visitors from that country to South Africa per annum over a period of three years;
  - b. the number of asylum seekers received from that country;
  - c. whether a visa exemption will increase tourism;
  - d. the number of nationals of that country deported from South Africa; and
  - e. a security threat analysis done by SSA.
- In so far as reciprocity is concerned, most European countries and the USA do not reciprocate by exempting South African passport holders from visa requirements.

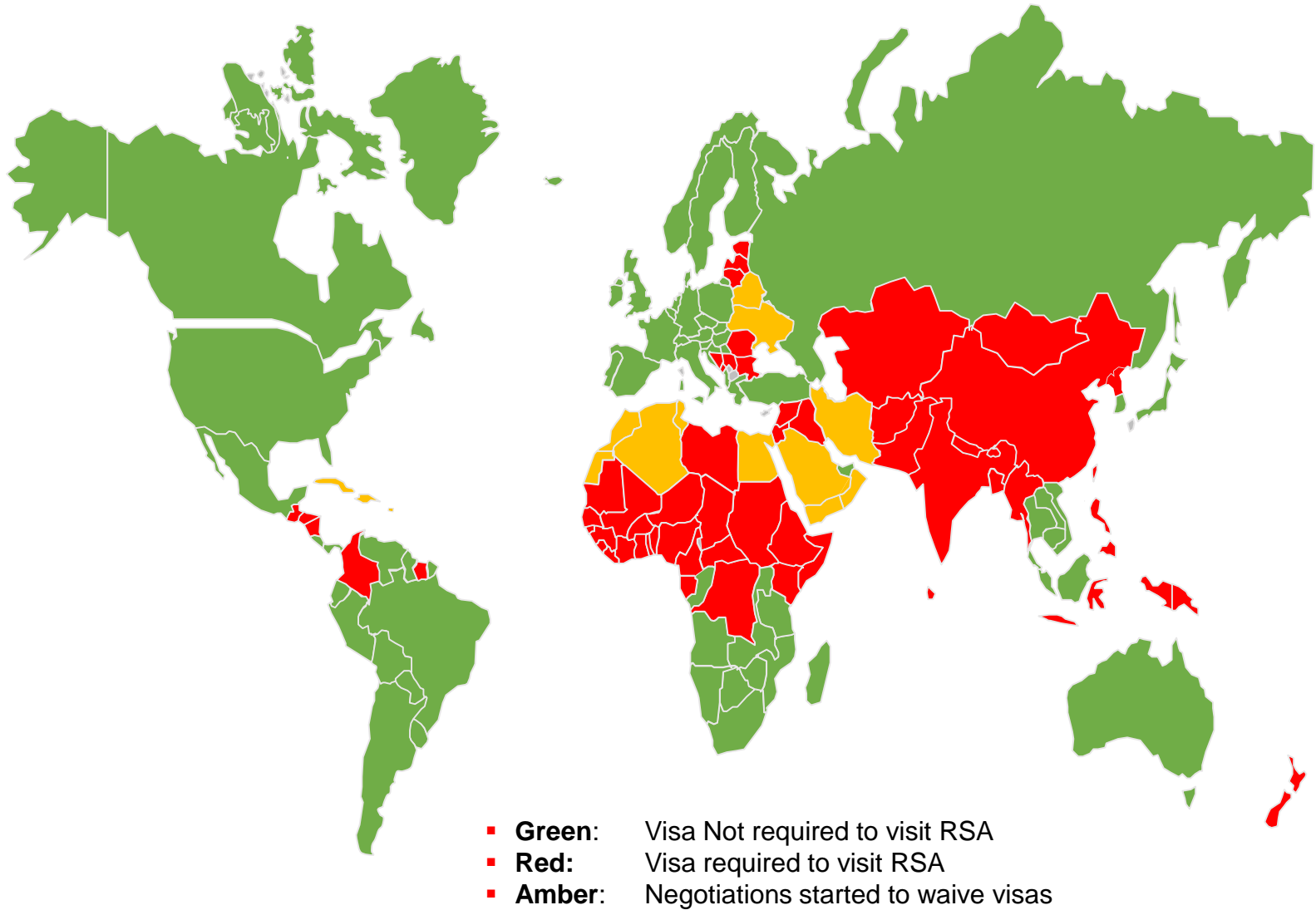
## COUNTRIES THAT SA HAS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH AND SPECIFIC VISA EXEMPTIONS THAT WHERE GRANTED

There are 7 Continents	No. of Countries
Africa	35
Asia	20
Europe	44
North America	19
South America	11
Oceania & Australia	3
Antactica	0

- eVisa has been rolled out to 14 countries
- Further to rolled out 20 more countries by end of June 2023.
- This means that all countries that are not visa exempt will have an eVisa platform to apply for a visitors visa to enter SA
- They don't need to go to an Embassy to apply



# VISA EXEMPTION STATUS



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