



# LESOTHO BORDER PROJECT



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# BACKGROUND

- Lesotho landlocked by SA, which is its only neighbour
- Unique situation calls for special approach
- Facilitation of movement and economic development are cornerstones of the SA/ Lesotho JBCC agreement
- Lesotho Least Developed Status
- Large % of Lesotho GDP derived from migrant workers in SA
- Foreigners can only enter Lesotho via the RSA



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# CURRENT SITUATION

- Numbers of routine travellers unmanageable  
(+28 000 p/d)
- Effectiveness of current "sausage machine" approach questionable
- Porous borderline encourages bypassing of controls
- Service delivery considerations (compliant travellers)



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## 3 OPTIONS

- Maintain status quo
- Increase resources to effectively manage peaks
- Stop processing routine commuters
- *Undesirable*
- *Under-utilisation during troughs (Amite)*
- *Monitoring of compliance*



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## OBJECTIVES: OPTION 3

- To facilitate the movement of citizens of the RSA and Lesotho
- To reduce immigration formalities over citizens of SA & Lesotho visiting the territory of the other state
- To focus efforts on inspections
- To free resources and use them more effectively
- Reduce opportunities for corruption (SAPS & DHA)



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# Progress report

- The draft agreement served before Cabinet before, in 2005.
- Cabinet resolved that the matter be referred back to the JBCC for consideration of the implications thereof for the RSA and Lesotho and finally to the JCPS.



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## Progress report (cont)

- JBCC considered the implications and found that it would be advantageous for South Africa and Lesotho to implement the agreement
- Agreement finally signed on 19 June 2007.



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# ADVANTAGES

- Creation of “fast lanes” for SA and Lesotho citizens at the 14 land border posts
- Reduce the numbers of immigration officers at border posts
- Reduce congestion at the border posts
- Enhance the focus on problem cases in our territories
- Economic advantages of free movement



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# SCOPE

- 14 land border posts
- Citizens of SA & Lesotho
- On valid national passports
- Only in respect of visitors & permit holders
- Contract workers (not to report on departure)



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# PROPOSED MECHANISMS

- Broadening of the current visa exemption
- Permit exemption
- Category exemption to RSA & Lesotho citizens not to have to report to immigration when entering / leaving SA



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# PROPOSED PROCEDURES

- Visitors produce passports at perimeter gate, to verify validity & authenticity (in line with status quo)
- No endorsement of passports at the border post (in line with status quo)
- Individual movements not to be captured (in line with status quo)
- Permit holders not to report to immigration on arrival & departure (in line with status quo)



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# UNAFFECTED CATEGORIES

- Third country nationals, irrespective of status in SA / Lesotho
- Airport users
- People wishing to cross the border legally at places other than the 14 border posts



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# RISK FACTORS

- Document fraud
- Stoplist cases



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# MITIGATION OF RISK

- Shift of focus to inspectorate
- Improved co-operation & exchange of information at all levels
- Anti corruption strategy (continued)
- Implementation Framework, i. e:
  - Airports project;
  - Intensify focus on borderline;
  - Security of enabling documents;
  - Consular cooperation



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# WAY FORWARD

- Ratification
- Legislative enablement *both countries*
- Communication implications
- Entry into force



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End

- Q&A



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