



**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nationals of Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, is hereby withdrawn in terms of section 10A(4)(c) of the Act.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(Act No 13 of 2002) ("the Act") enjoyed by medium-risk nationals of Portugal, Hong Kong and Singapore, is, also, hereby withdrawn in terms of section 10A(4)(c) of the Act.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 MOTSOLEDI, 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.