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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**NO. 1029****30 SEPTEMBER 2020****DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002****AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 4(8) OF THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 27(2) OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002): MEASURES TO PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

I, **Dr Pakishe Aaron Motsoaledi**, the Minister of Home Affairs, having issued Directions published in *Government Gazette* No. 43162, Government Notice No. 416 of 26 March 2020, as amended by Government Notice No. 518 of 9 May 2020, Government Notice No. 664 of 10 June 2020, Government Notice No. R.763 of 12 July 2020, Government Notice No. 843 of 31 July 2020 and Government Notice No. 923 of 25 August 2020 hereby, in terms of regulation 4(10) of the Regulations made under section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) and published in *Government Gazette* No. 43258, Government Notice No. R.480 of 29 April 2020, as amended, issue the Directions set out in the Schedule in order to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19.



DR PAKISHE AARON MOTSOALEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
DATE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these Directions, unless the context otherwise indicates—

“**Directions**” means the Directions published in Government *Gazette* No. 43162, Government Notice No. 416 of 26 March 2020, as amended by Government Notice No. R. 518 of 9 May 2020, Government Notice No. 664 of 10 June 2020, Government Notice No. 749 of 3 July 2020, Government Notice No. 843 of 31 July 2020 and Government Notice No. 923 of 25 August 2020; and

“**Regulations**” means the Regulations made in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) and published in Government *Gazette* No. 43258, Government Notice No. R. 480 of 29 April 2020, as amended by Government Notices No. R.608 of 28 May 2020, No. R.714 of 25 June 2020, No. R.763 of 12 July 2020, No. R.846 of 31 July 2020, No. R.891 of 17 August 2020 and No. R.999 of 18 September 2020.

Repeal of paragraphs 5 and 23 of the Directions

2. Paragraphs 5 and 23 of the Directions is hereby repealed.

Amendment of paragraphs 12.3, 19, 20 and 21.1 of the Directions

3.1 Paragraphs 12.3, 19, 20 and 21.1 of the Directions are hereby amended by the substitution for the date 31 October 2020 referred to in these paragraphs, of the date 31 January 2021, as the date until which the validity of visas and permits is extended and the date until which a person may leave the Republic without being declared as undesirable, respectively.

3.2 A holder of a visa or permit must adhere to the terms and conditions of his or her visa and any activity not endorsed onto such visa or permit is prohibited.

Amendment of paragraph 15 of the Directions

4. The Directions are hereby amended by the deletion of paragraphs 15.2 and 15.3 of the Directions.

Substitution of paragraph 16 of the Directions

5. The Directions are amended by the substitution for paragraph 16 of the following paragraph:

“16. OPENING AND CLOSURE OF SOME PORTS OF ENTRY

16.1 All land ports, except for those referred to in paragraph 16.2, will be opened with effect from 1 October 2020.

16.2 The 35 land ports of entry listed in Annexure “A” remain closed for processing of any person who wishes to enter into, transit through or depart from, the Republic during Alert Level 1 of the period of the national state of disaster.

Insertion of paragraphs 17G and 17H in the Directions

6. The following paragraphs is hereby inserted in the Directions after paragraph 17F:

**“17G. SERVICES TO BE RENDERED BY DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
UNDER ALERT LEVEL 1**

17G.1 The following additional services will be rendered by the Department of Home Affairs during Alert Level 1 of the period of the national state of disaster with effect from 1 October 2020, in addition to the services mentioned in paragraphs 17D, 17E and 17F:

- (a) applications for identity cards or documents;
- (b) applications for all types of passports; and
- (c) visa services in terms of the Immigration Act, including submission of applications through VFS Global, in the following categories:
 - (i) visitor’s visa, as contemplated in section 11(1)(a);
 - (ii) visitor’s visa, as contemplated in section 11(1)(b);
 - (iii) visitor’s visa, as contemplated in section 11(2);
 - (iv) visitor’s visa, as contemplated in section 11(6);
 - (v) study visa, as contemplated in section 13;
 - (vi) treaty visa, as contemplated in section 14;
 - (vii) business visa, as contemplated in section 15;

- (viii) crew visa, as contemplated in section 16;
- (ix) medical treatment visa, as contemplated in section 17;
- (x) relative's visa, as contemplated in section 18;
- (xi) general work visa, as contemplated in section 19(2);
- (xii) critical skills work visa, as contemplated in section 19(4);
- (xiii) intra-company transfer work visa, as contemplated in section 19(5);
- (xiv) retired person visa, as contemplated in section 20;
- (xv) corporate visa, as contemplated in section 21;
- (xvi) exchange visa, as contemplated in section 22;
- (xvii) waiver of prescribed requirement, as contemplated in section 31(2)(c);
and
- (xviii) appeal or review contemplated in section 8 against a decision on
application for a temporary residence visa.

17G.2 The services mentioned in paragraph 17G.1, including applications for a visitor's visa, as contemplated in section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act, will also be rendered at the South African Missions abroad.

17G.3 The application process for Lesotho Exemption Permits and Zimbabwean Exemptions Permits will open with effect from 1 October 2020.

Insertion of paragraph 23A in the Directions

7. The following paragraph is hereby inserted in the Directions after paragraph 23:

"23A. APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS TRAVEL

23A.1 Any person, from a country listed as having a high COVID-19 infection and transmission rate, who wishes to, with effect from 1 October 2020, undertake a business travel into the Republic as contemplated in regulation 75(5) of the Regulations may, in writing, apply to the Minister of Home Affairs and demonstrate reasons for his or her request to enter the Republic for business purposes during the period of the national state of disaster.

23A.2 An application referred to in paragraph 23A.1 must be made to email Covid19BusinessTravel@dha.gov.za and supported by—

- (a) a copy of passport and/or temporary residence visa;
- (b) proof of business activities to be undertaken in the Republic;
- (c) proof of travel itinerary; and
- (d) proof of address or accommodation in the Republic.

23A.3 Any person who is allowed entry into the Republic will be subjected to the prescribed screening procedures and isolation or quarantine rules, as the case may be, which include—

- (a) provision of a valid certificate of a negative test obtained not more than 72 hours before the date of travel; and
- (b) in the event of failure to submit a certificate as proof of a negative test, such person will be required to quarantine at his or her own costs.

23A.4 The list of such countries determined as having a high COVID-19 infection and transmission rate will be published, from time to time, on the website of the Department of Home Affairs.”

Short title and commencement

8. These Directions are called the Sixth Amendment Directions to the Directions published in Government *Gazette* No. 43162, Government Notice No. 416 of 26 March 2020 and commence on the date of publication thereof in the Government *Gazette*.

Annexure "A"
List of closed ports of entry

LAND PORTS

NEIGHBORING COUNTRY		PROVINCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	NAME OF PORT (REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA)
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA		Limpopo	Zanzibar
		Limpopo	Platjan
		Limpopo	Pontdrift
		Limpopo	Stockpoort
		North West	Derdepoort
		North West	Swartkopfontein Gate
		North West	Bray
		North West	Makopong
		North West	Makgobistad
		Northern Cape	MC Carthys Rest
		Northern Cape	Middelputs
		Northern Cape	Gemsbok
		Northern Cape	TweeRivieren
KINGDOM OF ESWATINI		KwaZulu-Natal	Onverwacht
		Mpumalanga	Bothashoop
		Mpumalanga	Emahlatini
		Mpumalanga	Josefsdal
		Mpumalanga	Nerston
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO		Mpumalanga	Waverly
		Eastern Cape	Ramatsilitso Gate
		Eastern Cape	Ongeluksnek
		Eastern Cape	Telle Bridge
		Free State	Makhaleng Bridge
		Free State	Peka Bridge
		Free State	Monantsa Pass
		Free State	Sepapus Gate
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE		KwaZulu-Natal	Sani Pass
		KwaZulu-Natal	Boesmansnek
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA		KwaZulu-Natal	Kosi Bay
		Limpopo	Giriyondo
		Limpopo	Pafuri
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA		Northern Cape	Alexander Bay
		Northern Cape	Rietfontein
		Northern Cape	Onseepkans
		Northern Cape	Sendelingsdrift

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Statement of the Minister of Home Affairs regarding the reopening of borders and services during Alert Level 1

30 September 2020

All 18 land ports of entry will be opened with effect from 1 October 2020. The other 35 land ports of entry remain closed.

The Department of Home Affairs is extending the validity period of legally issued visas which expired during the lockdown period to 31 January 2021.

Holders of such visas are permitted to remain in the country under the conditions of their visas until 31 January 2021. Those wishing to be repatriated to their countries within this period can depart without being declared undesirable persons.

The Department is also resuming services for applications for identity cards or documents and for all types of passports.

Visa services, including submission of applications through VFS Global, will also resume in the following categories:

Visitor's visas; study visa; treaty visa; business visa; crew visa; medical treatment visa; relative's visa; general work visa; critical skills work visa; intra-company transfer work visa; retired person visa; corporate visa; exchange visa; waiver of prescribed requirement, as contemplated in section 31(2)(c); and appeals or reviews contemplated in section 8 of the Immigration Act.

Some of these services will also be available through our Missions abroad.

Any person from a country listed as having a high COVID-19 infection and transmission rate, who wish to undertake a business travel into South Africa, may with effect from 01 October 2020, in writing, apply to the Minister of Home Affairs and demonstrate reasons for their request to enter the Republic for business purposes during the period of the national state of disaster.

Such applications must be directed to email Covid19BusinessTravel@dha.gov.za and supported by—

- (a) a copy of passport and/or temporary residence visa;
- (b) proof of business activities to be undertaken in the Republic;
- (c) proof of travel itinerary; and
- (d) proof of address or accommodation in the Republic.

We need to remind our people that the fact that we are at level 1 lockdown, does not mean that the Covid-19 pandemic is over. We still have to take precautions, and some of them, might be very hard decisions to make. But this will be done in such a way that it strikes a balance between saving lives and livelihoods.

In this regard, the opening of international travel will follow a Risk Adjusted Approach. Earlier today, a list of high risk countries was read at a Press Conference. Unfortunately this list was not exhaustive, and might also have included some countries by mistake. We are hereby releasing the whole updated list, and we heartily apologize for any confusion and any inconvenience caused by the earlier release:

Albania	Brazil	France	India
Argentina	Chile	Georgia	Iran
Armenia	Columbia	Greece	Iraq
Austria	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Ireland
Bahrain	Croatia	Guyana	Israel
Belgium	Czech Republic	Honduras	Jamaica
Bolivia	Denmark	Hungary	Jordan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ecuador	Iceland	Kuwait
Lebanon	Nepal	Peru	Suriname
Luxemburg	Netherlands	Portugal	Switzerland
Maldives	North Macedonia	Puerto Rico	Ukraine
Malta	Oman	Qatar	United Emirates
Mexico	Palestine	Romania	United Kingdom
Moldova	Panama	Russia	USA
Montenegro	Paraguay	Slovakia	Venezuela

We need to emphasize once more that people who are not allowed from these high risk countries are leisure travellers only. Other categories of people from these countries, are allowed under special conditions, as appears in the Regulations and Directions. The list of these high risk countries will also be found on the Home Affairs website; www.dha.gov.za

The above list will be reviewed every fortnight.

Enquiries:

Siya Qoza, 082 898 1657 (spokesperson for the Minister of Home Affairs)

David Hlabane, 071 342 4284 (media manager for the Department of Home Affairs)

Home Affairs Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi provides an update on the partial re-opening of borders and services during Alert Level 1

04 October 2020

The Minister of Home Affairs Dr Aaron Motsoaledi convened an inclusive meeting involving senior immigration officials and ports of entry managers to address the challenges arising from the implementation of Regulations pertaining to travel into the Republic, including opening the tourism industry and promoting trade in order to stimulate economic recovery.

The Minister of Tourism, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, was consulted prior and during the meeting and fully endorses its outcome.

The visa free status of citizens of some countries and territories was temporarily suspended at the start of the lockdown period. In line with the commitment of Government to take urgent steps to address the economic and tourism stagnation brought about by the outbreak of Covid-19, the visa free status of citizens from the following countries and territories has been reinstated:

- South Korea;
- Spain;
- Italy;
- Germany;
- Hong Kong;
- Singapore;
- USA;
- UK;
- France;

- Portugal; and

- Iran.

However, the visa free status does not alter the current Covid-19 Regulations.

The Minister has instructed officials to communicate this decision to the aviation industry, embassies and other stakeholders as a matter of urgency.

The port managers have been instructed to adhere to the SADC protocol and guidelines regulating the movement of essential goods under Covid-19 Regulations. The guidelines regulating truck drivers travelling across the border will continue to apply as has been the case for the past seven months.

In view of the confusion regarding the 72 hours negative test requirement, we reiterate that business persons providing services across the borders of SADC are allowed multiple entry subject to the following:

- Producing a certificate of negative Covid-19 test result not older than 72 hours from the time of departure. This certificate is valid for 14 days.

Minister Motsoaledi is fully aware of the issue of airline and maritime crews and he has been informed that the Minister of Transport is resolving the matter and a statement to that effect will hopefully be issued by the Minister of Transport today.

Immigration officers will be required to assess the movement and place of origin of the traveller and not the country of origin of the airline concerned.

Transit travellers through South Africa by air will be allowed to connect to their destinations, subject to them complying with applicable health protocols but need not produce the 72 hours negative certificate.

As communicated on 30 September 2020, visa services, including submission of applications through VFS Global, have resumed in the following categories:

Visitor's visas; study visa; treaty visa; business visa; crew visa; medical treatment visa; relative's visa; general work visa; critical skills work visa; intra-company transfer work

visa; retired person visa; corporate visa; exchange visa; waiver of prescribed requirement, as contemplated in section 31(2)(c); and appeals or reviews contemplated in section 8 of the Immigration Act.

Any person from a country listed as having a high COVID-19 infection and transmission rate, who wish to undertake a business travel into South Africa, may, in writing, apply to the Minister of Home Affairs and demonstrate reasons for their request to enter the Republic for business purposes during the period of the national state of disaster.

Such applications must be directed to email Covid19BusinessTravel@dha.gov.za and supported by—

- (a) a copy of passport and/or temporary residence visa;
- (b) proof of business activities to be undertaken in the Republic;
- (c) proof of travel itinerary; and
- (d) proof of address or accommodation in the Republic.

The list of high risk countries as published on 30 September 2020 is:

Albania	Brazil	France	India
Argentina	Chile	Georgia	Iran
Armenia	Columbia	Greece	Iraq
Austria	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Ireland
Bahrain	Croatia	Guyana	Israel
Belgium	Czech Republic	Honduras	Jamaica
Bolivia	Denmark	Hungary	Jordan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ecuador	Iceland	Kuwait
Lebanon	Nepal	Peru	Suriname
Luxemburg	Netherlands	Portugal	Switzerland
Maldives	North Macedonia	Puerto Rico	Ukraine
Malta	Oman	Qatar	United Emirates
Mexico	Palestine	Romania	United Kingdom
Moldova	Panama	Russia	USA
Montenegro	Paraguay	Slovakia	Venezuela

The list of these high risk countries will be updated fortnightly and can be accessed on the Home Affairs website: www.dha.gov.za

Immigration officers have been instructed to apply the requirements with a measure of flexibility in order to allow applications for business travel to be lodged at the ports of entry if and when necessary and await the outcome before entry into the Republic is allowed.

All other categories of travellers from medium and low risk countries are required to produce a certificate of negative COVID-19 test result not older than 72 hours from the time of departure. Any person who fail to submit the certificate will be required to quarantine at his or her own cost.

Enquiries:

Siya Qoza, 082 898 1657 (spokesperson for the Minister of Home Affairs)

David Hlabane, 071 342 4284 (media manager for the Department of Home Affairs)