



home affairs

Department:
Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR
EXEMPTION PERMITS TO BE ISSUED IN TERMS OF SECTION 31 (2) (b) OF
THE IMMIGRATION ACT 13 OF 2002**

Introduction

1. On 29 November 2023, the Minister of Home Affairs (“Minister”) decided to grant exemptions to the Lesotho nationals in terms of section 31 (2) (b) of the Immigration Act 13 of 2002 subject to certain terms and conditions. The decision was followed by directives issued by the Minister extending the validity of the exemption permits in respect of the Lesotho nationals to 31 December 2024 and in respect of the Zimbabwean nationals to 31 December 2024.
2. The said directives were published in the *Government Gazette* nos 49813 and 49814 published on 4 December 2023.

**Directives: Requirements for applications for exemption permits:
Lesotho and Zimbabwean nationals**

3. The Minister has decided to issue directives setting out the requirements for applications for exemption permits to be complied with by the affected Lesotho and Zimbabwean nationals. The directives are annexed hereto marked “A” and “B”. The directives will be published in the Government Gazette on Monday, 18 December 2023.

4. VFS GLOBAL has been instructed to prioritize the applications for exemption permits and all necessary practical steps are being taken together with officials of the Department of Home Affairs (“DHA”) to give effect to the decisions of the Minister in this regard.

5. The Minister once more calls upon all the affected Lesotho and Zimbabwean nationals to apply for exemption permits without any further delay.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

DATE: 18 DECEMBER 2023

All media enquiries must be directed to:

Thabo Mokgola, 060 962 4982 (Spokesperson for the Minister of Home Affairs)



MINISTER OF
HOME AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Private Bag X9102, Cape Town, 8000, Tel: (021) 469 6507, Fax: (021) 461 4191

**NOTICE TO ALL AFFECTED LESOTHO
NATIONALS**

MINISTER'S IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 5 OF 2023

**RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION IN RESPECT OF GRANTING
EXEMPTIONS TO LESOTHO NATIONALS IN TERMS OF SECTION 31(2)(b) OF
THE IMMIGRATION ACT 13 OF 2002 AND REQUIREMENTS FOR AN
APPLICATION FOR AN EXEMPTION PERMIT**

I, Dr PA Motsoaledi, MP, Minister of Home Affairs having, with the powers bestowed upon me in terms of section 31(2)(b) of the Immigration Act, decided to determine the requirements for an application for an exemption permit as follows:

1. An applicant must apply online through VFS Global platform at www.vfsglobal.com by selecting the applicable permit category, complete the online application, pay the prescribed service fee and book an appointment at any of the VFS Global offices in South Africa.

2. On the appointment day, an applicant shall submit to VFS Global the following:
 - 2.1 A duly completed and signed online form for the exemption permit;
 - 2.2 An original valid passport issued by the Government of Lesotho valid for 120 calendar days;
 - 2.3 A copy of a valid passport issued by the Government of Lesotho valid for 120 calendar days;
 - 2.4 Proof of application for a new passport lodged with the relevant Lesotho authorities, in case of an expired passport;
 - 2.5 Proof of employment (if applicable);
 - 2.6 Proof of business registration with Companies and Intellectual Property Commission("CIPC") and South African Revenue Service ("SARS") (if applicable);
 - 2.7 Proof of registration with the relevant learning institution (if applicable);
 - 2.8 A certified record of birth(s) of minor child/children born in the Republic of South Africa and proof of address of the applicant (if applicable);

2.9 A certified copy of the exemption permit of which its validity was extended in terms of the Minister's Immigration Directive no 3 of 2023; and

2.10 Fingerprints.

Any enquiry related to the contents of this Directive, should be directed to the Acting Deputy Director- General: Immigration Services, Mr Modiri Matthews at Modiri.

Matthews@dha.gov.za or at **082 881 5308**

THIS DONE AND SIGNED AT PRETORIA ON THIS THE 18th DAY DECEMBER 2023.



DR P A MOTSOLEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
DATE: 18th DECEMBER 2023

B



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**NOTICE TO ALL AFFECTED ZIMBABWEAN
NATIONALS**

MINISTER'S IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 6 OF 2023

**RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION IN RESPECT OF GRANTING
EXEMPTIONS TO ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALS IN TERMS OF SECTION
31(2)(b) OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT 13 OF 2002 AND REQUIREMENTS FOR
AN APPLICATION FOR AN EXEMPTION PERMIT**

I, Dr PA Motsoaledi, MP, Minister of Home Affairs having, with the powers bestowed upon me in terms of section 31(2)(b) of the Immigration Act, decided to determine the requirements of application for an exemption permit as follows:

1. An applicant must apply online through VFS Global platform at www.vfsglobal.com by selecting the applicable permit category, complete the online application, pay the prescribed service fee and book an appointment at any of the VFS Global offices in South Africa.

2. On the appointment day, an applicant shall submit to VFS Global the following:
 - 2.1 A duly completed and signed online form for the exemption permit;
 - 2.2 An original valid passport issued by the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe valid for 120 calendar days;
 - 2.3 A copy of a valid passport issued by the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe valid for 120 calendar days;
 - 2.4 Proof of application for a new passport lodged with the relevant Zimbabwean authorities, in case of an expired passport;
 - 2.5 Proof of employment (if applicable);
 - 2.6 Proof of business registration with Companies and Intellectual Property Commission("CIPC") and South African Revenue Service ("SARS") (if applicable);
 - 2.7 Proof of registration with the relevant learning institution (if applicable);
 - 2.8 A certified record of birth(s) of minor child/children born in the Republic of South Africa and proof of address of the applicant (if applicable);

2.9 A certified copy of the exemption permit of which its validity was extended in terms of the Minister's Immigration Directive no 4 of 2023; and

2.10 Fingerprints.

Any enquiry related to the contents of this Directive, should be directed to the Acting Deputy Director- General: Immigration Services, Mr Modiri Matthews at Modiri.

Matthews@dha.gov.za or at **082 881 5308**

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT PRETORIA ON THIS THE 18th DAY DECEMBER 2023.



DR P A MOTSOLEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
DATE: 18th DECEMBER 2023