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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

NO. 7168

25 February 2026

INVITATION TO DOMESTIC EVENT ORGANISERS TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ACCREDITATION TO THE MEETINGS, EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND TOURISM SCHEME (MEETS) VISA SCHEME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**BACKGROUND**

In a critical step to reform the visa system and position the Department as an economic enabler by supercharging job creation in the Meetings, Events, Exhibitions and Tourism Scheme (MEETS) sector, Home Affairs invites Domestic Event Organisers with proven experience in this sector to submit an expression of interest for admission to the MEETS visa scheme, subject to the qualifying criteria.

South Africa has become an ideal location for international conferences, conventions, trade shows and symposiums. With its world-class event venues, quality accommodations, state-of-the-art conference facilities, and natural beauty, South Africa continues to draw attention as a business events destination.

Participation in international platforms not only facilitates networking and collaborations but also opens doors to new markets and business ventures for South African event organisers and venue providers.

International visitors to international events hosted in South Africa require visas if they are not from visa-exempt countries.

Through the MEETS visa scheme, the Department aims to put in place a visa regime that will attract and promote South Africa as a preferred destination for international arts, culture, sports, and entertainment events within the MEETS sector.

The MEETS visa scheme will allow accredited and reputable event organisers to facilitate and submit group visa applications, subject to the risk profile of the delegates, through a secure digital platform. The accreditation will be regulated through a formal Memorandum of Agreement with the Department, which will regulate and prescribe reduced visa requirements.

To qualify for membership to the MEETS visa scheme, a domestic event organiser, operator, business, or organisation needs to demonstrate that it adheres to the regulatory requirements in the MEETS sector, that it promotes the employment of South Africans and that it has sufficient administrative capacity to facilitate group visa applications for the event.

SELECTION CRITERIA

In order to ensure that the selection process of domestic event organisers is fair, ethical and transparent, the Department of Home Affairs will make use of the following criteria:

Count	Requirements	Description	Points
1	Regulatory Compliance	A letter of support from the Minister, Director-General of the relevant government department, business organisation or chamber.	25
2	Event Capacity	Must have hosted an event with a minimum of 500 registered delegates in the last two years	25
3	Website	Must have a valid website with full details of the organisation.	15
4	Register of Delegates	Must be willing to develop and submit an online register of all foreign delegates expected to attend, in a format to be determined by Home Affairs, 60 days before the start of the event.	20
5	Certificate of event compliance	Must be able to provide a certificate of Section 25 of the Safety, Sports and Recreational Events Act of 2010, as provided for in Government Gazette No. 40082 dated 20 June 2016, for planned events.	20
6	Visa Submission Team	Must have own team, appoint a team or a representative who will submit digital visa applications on behalf of registered delegates on an online DHA platform.	15

7	Memorandum of Agreement	Once selected, the Chair of the organisation or the Local Organising Committee must be willing to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Home Affairs regarding the facilitation of visas for the event, including the terms and conditions.	20
TOTAL			140

NB: A domestic event organiser must meet the (1) regulatory compliance and (2) event capacity requirements, which are mandatory for short-listing. The domestic event organiser must obtain a minimum threshold of 120 points for selection into the MEETS visa scheme.

For more information on the application process, the qualification criteria, and the determination and awarding of points, kindly visit the www.dha.gov.za website. Enquiries regarding the submission of expressions of interest may be directed to MEETS@dha.gov.za

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Applications must contain all information specified in the Selection Criteria set out above.
2. The scored results will be assessed and validated by a selected Inter-Departmental Committee, comprising one or more Technical Officials from but not limited to the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Trade Industry and Competition and any other relevant government department.
3. The Department of Home Affairs will make the final selection. The applicants will be advised of the outcome within 60 days of the date of submission.
4. Companies that are approved for admission to the scheme will be required to pay or submit proof of payment of the applicable prescribed fee per visitor processed on the MEETS platform for an international event.

5. The decision of the MEETS Inter-Departmental Committee is final. The Department of Home Affairs reserves the right to grant or deny MEETS visa scheme status to any company.
6. There is no closing date for submitting expressions of interest for admission to MEETS. Domestic Event Organisers with proven experience in this sector are advised to submit expressions of interest and register their international event at least 4 months before the event starts.



DR. L.A. SCHREIBER, MP
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

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