



**MINISTER OF
HOME AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS : HEAD OFFICE
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THE COMMISSIONER : BORDER MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL : CONSULAR SERVICES
RELATIONS & COOPERATION**

MINISTERIAL IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO. 11 OF 2026

**EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY VISA CONCESSION TO FOREIGN NATIONALS
ON TEMPORARY RESIDENCE VISAS WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE ONGOING
MILITARY CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE GULF REGION**

1. I, Dr L A Schreiber, MP, Minister of Home Affairs, with the powers vested in me in terms of section 31(2)(c) of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002) (Immigration Act), and in an attempt to assist passengers and crew of airlines who are still affected by flight limitations to countries such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Qatar, Bahrein, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Oman due to the military conflict in the Middle East and the Gulf region have made the following extended temporary concessions:
 - a) Passengers and crew of airlines who are affected by flight limitations, whose long-term visas are due to expire and who are able to meet all the prescribed requirements, be allowed to apply for visitor's visas as contemplated in section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act, on or before the expiry of the current visa. No change of status or conditions will be allowed.
 - b) Visitor's visas: Passengers and crew of airlines who are affected by flight limitations, whose visitors' visas have reached their maximum validity period and are technically not renewable in terms of section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act, be allowed to apply for the same visa with the same

conditions for a period not exceeding three months. No change of status or conditions will be allowed.

- c) Insofar as passengers and crew of airlines who are affected by flight limitations, whose temporary residence visas have expired, they be allowed to submit renewal applications for their visas without the need to first obtain a FORM 20 (Authorisation for an illegal foreigner to remain in the country pending an application for status).
 - d) Any foreign national originating from a country mentioned in paragraph 1 above, who has an application pending for adjudication and who might be able to board a flight when a flight becomes available, should not be declared an undesirable person for having overstayed the validity of his or her visa.
 - e) Any foreign national originating from a country mentioned in paragraph 1 above, who was unable to depart on time and was declared undesirable on departure dating from 26 February 2026, due to circumstances influenced by flight limitations, may submit an appeal accompanied by reasonable evidence to middleeast.overstay@dha.gov.za.
2. This temporary visa concession is applicable only to foreign nationals who were legally admitted into South Africa through a port of entry and will apply until the 30 November 2026 or until the date of declaration of cease fire and the full re-opening of travel in the affected region, whichever comes first.

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