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**GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

NO. 3532

8 June 2023

**home affairs**

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Department:  
Home Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

To: All Media/ News Editors

**Media Statement**

Issue Date: 07 June 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE ISSUING OF MINISTER'S IMMIGRATION  
DIRECTIVE NO: 2 OF 2023, EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE  
EXEMPTION PERMITS ISSUED TO THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALS**

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1. As you are aware, the Minister of Home Affairs (Minister) issued a directive in September 2022, extending the validity of exemption permits issued to the Zimbabwean nationals to 30 June 2023. Since that time, significant developments took place.
2. The Minister has approved thousands of waiver applications of the affected Zimbabwean nationals. This has resulted in significant increase in the number of visa and waiver applications. The Departmental Advisory Committee (DAC) led by Dr Cassius Lubisi is now dealing with the increased number of visa applications.

The Minister is equally considering and approving waiver applications on a daily basis.

3. Unlike before since May/beginning of June 2023, VFS Global is now receiving between 1 000 - 1 500 visa and waiver applications of the affected Zimbabwean nationals daily. For these reasons, the Director-General has deployed more officials to assist in the processing of the applications.
4. The Minister took into consideration the said factors, including (to a certain extent) submissions received from the affected Zimbabwean nationals, relevant officials of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and other interested parties and decided to issue another Immigration Directive, extending the validity of Zimbabwean exemption permits for a further period of 6 months, ending on 31 December 2023. A copy of the Directive is annexed hereto marked "A".
5. The Minister's Immigration Directive no: 2 of 2023, will be published in the Extraordinary Government *Gazette* tomorrow on Thursday, 8 June 2023
6. The Minister calls upon all interested parties to take into consideration the said Directive in their decision-making processes.

7. The Minister will be addressing a letter to the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation requesting her to issue a *note verbale* to bring the Directive to the attention of His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

**Issued by:**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**DATE: 07 JUNE 2023**

"Annexure A"



MINISTER OF  
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS: HEAD OFFICE

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**PROVINCIAL OFFICES**

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**IMMIGRATION OFFICERS: INSPECTORATE**

**PERMITTING SECTIONS**

**CIVIC SERVICES**

**MINISTER'S IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 2 OF 2023**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION NOT TO EXTEND ZIMBABWEAN  
NATIONALS' EXEMPTIONS GRANTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 31(2)(b), READ  
WITH SECTION 31(2)(d) OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT 13 OF 2002**

I, Dr PA Motsoaledi, MP, Minister of Home Affairs having, with the powers bestowed upon me in terms of section 31(2)(b), read with section 31(2)(d) of the Immigration Act, decided to extend the validity of Zimbabwean exemption permits issued to Zimbabwean nationals for a further period of 6 months in order to allow the holders thereof to apply for one or

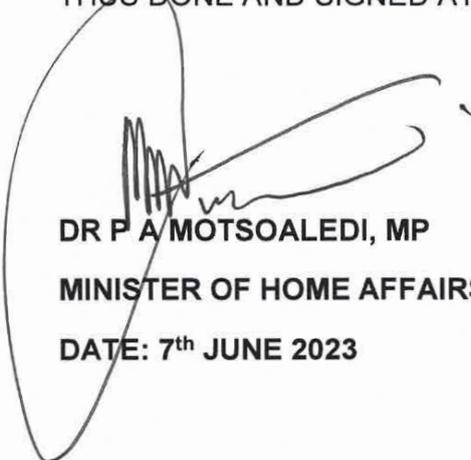
other visas and waivers provided for in the Immigration Act, (read with Immigration Regulations, 2014) that they may qualify for, hereby direct that this decision should be implemented as follows, during the further 6 months' period, starting from 30 June 2023 and ending 31 December 2023:

1. No holder of a valid exemption permit may be arrested, ordered to depart or be detained for purposes of deportation or deported in terms of the section 34 of the Immigration Act for any reason related to him or her not having any valid exemption certificate (i.e. permit label / sticker) in his or her passport. The holder of a valid exemption permit may not be dealt with in terms of sections 29, 30 and 32 of the Immigration Act.
2. The holder of a valid exemption permit may be allowed to enter into or depart from the Republic of South Africa in terms of section 9 of the Act, read together with the Immigration Regulations, 2014, provided that he or she complies with all other requirements for entry into and departure from the Republic, save for the reason of having an expired exemption permit indicated in his or her passport; and
3. No holder of exemption should be required to produce—
  - (a) a valid exemption certificate/permit;

- (b) an authorisation letter to remain in the Republic contemplated in section 32(2) of the Immigration Act when making an application for any category of the visas, including temporary residence visa.

Any enquiry related to the contents of this Directive, should be directed to Mr Yusuf Simons at [Yusuf.Simons@dha.gov.za](mailto:Yusuf.Simons@dha.gov.za) or at 082 809 2142

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT PRETORIA ON THIS THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY JUNE 2023.



**DR P A MOTSOALEDI, MP**  
**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**  
**DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**







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