

Global Immigration alert

December 2024



South Africa

South Africa announces another extension of Zimbabwe Exemption Permits

Executive summary

On 28 November 2024, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) announced automatic extensions of all existing Zimbabwe Exemption Permits (ZEPs) until 28 November 2025.

Background

The DHA introduced the ZEP in 2017 for eligible nationals of Zimbabwe who were living in South Africa on a Zimbabwean Dispensation Permit. In December 2021, the DHA discontinued the ZEP and set a deadline of 31 December 2022 for holders of valid ZEPs to switch to another immigration category. Pursuant to legal challenges, the DHA extended the deadline several times, with the latest extension being valid until December 2024.

Key developments

Based on the DHA's recent announcement, all existing ZEPs are now valid until 28 November 2025, and holders can continue residing in South Africa using their ZEP until this date. They will not be required to apply for an extension until then.

Impact on employers

Organizations in South Africa are expected to benefit from this extension as it will minimize work disruptions stemming from impacted employees potentially losing their immigration status.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.



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