

# Global Immigration alert

April 2025

## South Africa

Extension of blanket concession for individuals with pending visa, waiver and appeal applications until 30 September 2025

### Executive summary

South Africa's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) recently extended the temporary concession period until 30 September 2025 for eligible foreign nationals whose Long-Term Visa, waiver or appeal applications were pending adjudication as of 28 March 2025.

### Background

Since issuing the [previous concession](#) on 18 December 2024, the DHA has made significant progress in addressing the backlog. However, many application outcomes will not be available for collection by the previous concession deadline of 31 March 2025, primarily due to delays in the printing process. Additionally, the processing of appeals and certain manual category applications will not be finalized before the current concession expires.

### Key developments

The latest extension applies to individuals who submitted Long-Term Visa, waiver or appeal applications on or before 28 March 2025 and did not receive a decision as of that date. These individuals' lawful stay in South Africa is now valid until 30 September 2025, and they may exit and re-enter the country on or before this date without incurring penalties.

Visa-exempt individuals with pending Long-Term Visa or waiver applications must present their application receipt to immigration officials upon departure from and re-entry into South Africa. Those with pending appeal applications must present both their visa rejection letter and the appeal application receipt when entering or exiting the country. Non-visa exempt applicants

with pending Long-Term Visa, appeal or waiver applications who exit the country must obtain a Visitor's Visa prior to re-entering South Africa.

The temporary measures outlined above do not apply to permanent residence permit applicants. Individuals awaiting the outcome of their permanent residence permit applications are required to ensure that their temporary residence status in South Africa remains valid during the transition period.

### Impact on employers

The extension is expected to benefit employers by minimizing business disruptions in connection with processing delays.

### Key steps

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



Shape the future  
with confidence

EY is building a better working world by creating new value for clients, people, society and the planet, while building trust in capital markets.

Enabled by data, AI and advanced technology, EY teams help clients shape the future with confidence and develop answers for the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow.

EY teams work across a full spectrum of services in assurance, consulting, tax, strategy and transactions. Fueled by sector insights, a globally connected, multi-disciplinary network and diverse ecosystem partners, EY teams can provide services in more than 150 countries and territories.

#### All in to shape the future with confidence.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via [ey.com/privacy](https://ey.com/privacy). EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit [ey.com](https://ey.com).

© 2025 Ernst & Young LLP.  
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 002650-25Gbl

2101-3682263  
ED None

This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, legal or other professional advice. Please refer to your advisors for specific advice.

**[ey.com](https://ey.com)**

**Michelle Kotze**  
Partner/Principal - People Advisory Services  
Tel: +27 11 82 870 4870  
Email: [michelle.kotze1@ey.com](mailto:michelle.kotze1@ey.com)

**Chantelle Mulligan**  
Associate Director - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +27 71 200 9022  
Email: [chantelle.mulligan@za.ey.com](mailto:chantelle.mulligan@za.ey.com)

**Valerie Chigodora**  
Associate Director - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +27 11 66 486 1220  
Email: [valerie.c.chigodora@ey.com](mailto:valerie.c.chigodora@ey.com)

**Ben Willis**  
Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader  
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589  
Email: [ben.willis@uk.ey.com](mailto:ben.willis@uk.ey.com)

**Seema Farazi**  
Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader  
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122  
Email: [seema.farazi@uk.ey.com](mailto:seema.farazi@uk.ey.com)