

Global Immigration alert

April 2025

Nigeria

Reforms to the Expatriate Administration System and new e-Visa effective May 2025

Executive summary

On 11 April 2025, Nigeria's Minister of Interior announced significant reforms to the Expatriate Administration System (EAS) for foreign nationals. The reforms aim to enhance monitoring of the Expatriate Quota (EQ) program, digitize residency permits, simplify employment and residency processes and improve national security.

Background

The Federal Ministry of Interior (FMI) organized a forum titled "Sensitization on the New Expatriate Administration and Other Reforms" to engage key private sector stakeholders, such as the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS), and the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA). During the forum, the Minister emphasized the government's commitment to enhance the efficiency of immigration processes through the new EAS, align with global best practices, and strengthen collaboration between the FMI and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS).

Key developments

Effective 1 May 2025, the following reforms will be implemented:

- Enhanced monitoring and tracking of the EQ understudy program, which is designed to facilitate the development and transfer of skills and knowledge from foreign expatriates to local company staff who are assigned to be understudies
- Increased scrutiny of EQ-related applications, higher EQ processing fees and the elimination of the manual application phase, which requires applicants to provide physical copies of their application documents (after uploading the same to the [website](#) of the Ministry of Interior)

- Digitization of the Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Alien Card (CERPAC) and green card processes
- Increased collaboration between the NIS and other security agencies, including INTERPOL, to enhance national security
- Introduction of Expatriate Comprehensive Insurance (ECI) to eliminate reliance on taxpayer funds for repatriating foreign nationals, where needed. Further details on costs will be provided in the coming weeks.
- Automation of Landing Exit and Entry Cards to enhance the passenger experience at Nigerian international airports. Previously, travelers were required to manually complete and submit physical forms upon arrival at, and departure from, Nigerian airports.

Additionally, the following operational changes will take effect on 1 May 2025:

- Discontinuation of the Visa on Arrival (VOA) facility. However, all VOA approvals granted prior to 1 May 2025 will remain valid for their two-week validity period.
- Launch of an e-Visa program featuring 13 visa classes
- Full automation of the Temporary Work Permit (TWP) application process
- Introduction of a multiple-entry TWP visa and residency fees for TWP holders. Previously, there were no residency fees associated with TWPs

Further details on these processes, updated requirements, and processing channels will be provided in the coming weeks.



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New fees for TWP visa holders

The Minister announced new fees for TWP visa holders based on their intended duration of stay:

- Three-month stay (single-entry): USD 600
- Six-month stay (multiple entry): USD 1,100

Penalties for visa overstay

A new penalty system for visa overstays will take effect on 1 August 2025, with an amnesty period starting on 1 May 2025 (i.e., from 1 May 2025 to 1 August 2025, individuals who remained in Nigeria beyond their permitted periods of stay may regularize their immigration status by paying fines and leaving the country). Details regarding the new penalty system include:

- Fines of USD 15 per day for all individuals who remain in Nigeria beyond their permitted period of stay as indicated on the arrival stamp
- Five-year bans for all individuals who overstay their visitor's pass by three months or more beyond their permitted period of stay (as indicated on their arrival stamp)
- 10-year bans for all individuals who overstay their visitor's pass by one year or more beyond their permitted period of stay (as indicated on their arrival stamp)

Impact on employers

Employers may consider these new developments and adopt their internal policies and processes to ensure compliance and mitigate business disruptions and potential penalties.

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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