

# Global Immigration alert

July 2025

## Nigeria

NIS provides clarifications regarding upcoming immigration reforms and initiatives

### Executive summary

On 30 June 2025, the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and Federal Ministry of Interior (FMI) hosted a forum with senior government officials and diplomatic and private sector representatives to discuss the implementation status of key immigration reforms and initiatives [announced](#) on 1 May 2025.

### Key developments

The Minister of Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji Ojo, stated that these reforms are designed to streamline immigration processing, enhance national security, and improve the user experience of foreign nationals and their employers in Nigeria. He also highlighted the success of the recently launched e-Visa initiative and the automated landing and exit card system for travelers.

The following key reforms are expected to be implemented later this month:

- *Activation of the Electronic Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Aliens Card (e-CERPAC).* This document will grant foreign nationals the right to lawfully work, live, study and invest in Nigeria. It will also replace the need for certain post-arrival immigration procedures, thus mitigating administrative delays and ensuring full compliance upon arrival.
- *Digitization of the Temporary Work Permit (TWP) application process.* TWP applications will now be processed via a designated NIS portal. Once approved, an entry permit will be granted electronically, together with a TWP Electronic Certificate.
- *Introduction of Expatriate Comprehensive Insurance (ECI).* The ECI, an annual insurance fee of USD 1,000, which is separate from the e-CERPAC fee of USD 2,000,

will become mandatory. This initiative aims to reduce reliance on taxpayer funds for repatriating foreign nationals when necessary.

In addition, the following initiatives are expected to be introduced over the coming weeks and months:

- *Nigeria Certified Immigration Agent (NCIA).* The NCIA is an accreditation scheme which will regulate third party agents.
- *ECOWAS National Biometric Identity Card.* The card is a regional biometric ID that will replace the current ECOWAS Travel Certificate. The card will facilitate the free movement of nationals of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member states within the ECOWAS, granting holders visa-free entry, and certain work and residency rights (e.g., exemptions from the Expatriate Quota and CERPAC requirements).
- *New Visa Policy (NVP) for 2025.* The NVP covers all 41 visa types and addresses grey areas in the current policy. The NVP is expected to touch on items such as visa requirements, timelines, processing channels, fees and eligibility criteria.

With respect to the Expatriate Quota (EQ) policy, the Minister clarified that the EQ for the Establishment Grant, which allows companies to hire foreign nationals, has a maximum validity period of seven years (i.e., the Establishment Grant is valid for an initial period of three years and may be renewed twice in increments of two years). Companies may apply for an Additional EQ, for a maximum validity period of six years (i.e., the Additional EQ is valid for an initial period of two years and may be renewed twice in increments of two years).



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## Impact on employers

These reforms and initiatives are expected to benefit employers by reducing processing times, increasing efficiency, improving transparency, enhancing security, reducing costs, and attracting a wider pool of foreign talent to Nigeria. Employers may adapt 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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