

Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2023



South Africa

Home Affairs Department invites comments on the upcoming Trusted Employers Scheme pilot

Executive summary

On 25 April 2023, the South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) hosted a presentation on the planned pilot of the Trusted Employer Scheme (TES) and opened a consultation period for companies to provide feedback. The TES is an initiative aimed at easing the immigration process for registered employers that hire eligible foreign nationals.

Background

The DHA initially proposed the TES in its 2017 White Paper to attract skilled labor and foreign investment. Under the TES, companies will be assigned points based on whether (and to what extent) they meet specific requirements. To qualify for the TES, companies must score a minimum of 80 points out of 100 across applicable categories (e.g., investing or pledging to invest in the Annual South African Investment Conference, employing 500 or more employees with at least 60% of the workforce being South African citizens or permanent residents). Qualifying companies will benefit from simplified immigration application requirements and priority processing of applications, among other things.

Key developments

South African companies can provide feedback and comments online until 19 May 2023 regarding the planned launch of the TES pilot.

The DHA is expected to announce the launch date of the pilot once the consultation period ends. Only 100 companies will be eligible to participate in the pilot. Interested businesses may submit their applications within 30 days of its launch.

Impact on employers

Companies may consider providing comments to the DHA prior to 19 May 2023 and evaluating whether they may benefit from participating in the TES.

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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