

Global Immigration alert

November 2024



Kenya

Kenya introduces new Digital Nomad Visa

Executive summary

Kenya recently announced the introduction of a new Class N: Digital Nomad Visa for foreign nationals who seek to work remotely from within Kenya for a company located abroad. At the time of publication, the authorities have not yet begun accepting applications for this visa.

Background

In general, the term “digital nomads” refers to individuals or freelancers who are employed and receive salaries and benefits in one country (i.e., the home country) but work remotely from another country or multiple countries (i.e., the host country/countries). Digital nomads are typically not permitted to earn remuneration in the host country/countries.

Key developments

The Kenyan authorities announced that individuals who seek to obtain a Class N: Digital Nomad Visa will need to:

- ▶ Be employed by a company located outside Kenya
- ▶ Earn an annual remuneration of at least USD 55,000
- ▶ Possess a valid passport
- ▶ Have confirmed accommodations in Kenya (i.e., hotel or serviced apartment)
- ▶ Have criminal records certificates (confirming they do not have a criminal record) issued by competent authorities in their country of residence
- ▶ Demonstrate that their presence “benefits” Kenya

Impact on employers

Kenya joins a growing list of countries that have introduced visas or permits for remote workers. Employers may consider Kenya as a potential destination for employees who seek to work remotely.

Key steps

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

Francis Kamau

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 254 20 2886000
Email: francis.kamau@ke.ey.com

Christopher Kirathe

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 254 20 2886000
Email: christopher.kirathe@ke.ey.com

Hadijah Nannyomo

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 254 20 2886000
Email: hadijah.nannyomo@ke.ey.com

Maureen Mwangi

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 254 20 2886000
Email: maureen.mwangi@ke.ey.com

Boniface Kibe

Senior - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 254 20 2886000
Email: boniface.kibe@ke.ey.com

Monicah Kamau

Staff - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 254 20 2886000
Email: monicah.kamau@ke.ey.com

Ben Willis

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: 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

EY | Shape the future with confidence

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

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. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2024 Ernst & Young LLP.
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 009944-24Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

ey.com