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Global Immigration alert

April 2026

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South Africa

Temporary concession extended for individuals with pending waiver, long-term visa and appeal cases through 30 June 2027

Executive summary

South Africa's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) recently extended the temporary concession period until 30 June 2027 for eligible foreign nationals with pending waiver, long-term visa and appeal applications effective 1 April 2026.

Background

Following the [previous concession](#) issued on 26 September 2025, the DHA has made significant progress in addressing historic backlogs within the visa and permit regime. The department acknowledges that South Africa remains a destination of choice for many applicants. However, due to the high volume of applications and the department's ongoing interventions to eradicate corruption, it has not been possible to finalize all applications timely. This has affected, among others, waiver, long-term visa and appeal applications.

Key developments

The latest extension applies to individuals who submitted waiver, long-term visa or appeal applications on or before 1 April 2026 and did not receive a decision as of that date. These individuals' lawful stay in South Africa is now valid until 30 June 2027, and they may exit and re-enter the country on or before this date without incurring penalties.

Applicants are not allowed to engage in any activity other than what the current visa conditions provide for.

Visa-exempt individuals with pending waiver and long-term visa applications must present their application receipt to the immigration officials upon departure from and re-entry into South Africa. Those with pending appeal applications must present their visa rejection letter and appeal application receipt when entering or exiting the country. Non-visa exempt applicants with pending appeal, long-term visa or waiver applications who exit the country must obtain a Visitor's Visa prior to re-entering South Africa.

The above temporary measures apply only to foreign nationals who have been lawfully admitted into the country. These measures are further limited to applicants who have submitted their applications through VFS Global and who are able to present a verifiable receipt, as confirmed against the VFS Global tracking system.

Applicants with pending appeal applications arising from the rejection of an application for the renewal of a short-term Visitor's Visa, where such appeal has been pending for a period exceeding three months, are excluded from this concession. In order not to be declared undesirable, these applicants are required to depart the country on or before 30 April 2026.

The concession does not apply to permanent residence permit applicants, who must ensure their temporary residence status remains valid.

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.

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