home affairs
Department:
Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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| **DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS** | : | **HEAD OFFICE**<br>**VISA FACILITATION CENTRES** |
| **DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION** | : | **CONSULAR SERVICES** |

**CIRCULAR: TEMPORARY MEASURES IN RESPECT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN LIGHT OF A BACKLOG EXPERIENCED IN PROCESSING OUTCOMES ON WAIVER APPLICATIONS AND VISA APPLICATIONS**

1. In an attempt to address the impact that the backlog in processing outcomes on waiver and visa applications has on foreign nationals, the Department has decided to introduce some temporary measures to address the situation they find themselves in.

2. The following temporary measures will apply with immediate effect:

   (a) **Applicants whose waiver application outcomes are still pending**: Foreign nationals whose waiver applications are still pending are hereby granted a blanket temporary extension until 30 September 2022 in order for the Department to process these applications and for applicants to collect their outcomes and submit applications for appropriate visas. Applicants who wish to abandon their waiver applications and depart from South Africa when able to do so, will be allowed to exit at a port of entry on or before 30 September 2022 without being declared undesirable.

   (b) **Applicants whose visa applications are still pending**: Foreign nationals who are awaiting the outcome of visa applications are granted a blanket temporary extension until 30 September 2022 of the current visa status. Those who wish to abandon their visa applications and depart from South Africa when able to do so, will be allowed to exit at a port of entry on or before 30 September 2022 without being declared undesirable. Applicants are not allowed to engage in any activity other than what the visa conditions provide for. Applicants with pending long-term visa applications who originate from countries that are exempt from port of entry visa requirements, and who wish to travel, may do so by presenting their VFS receipts on arrival back at the port of entry for admission into South Africa and to collect their visa outcomes. However, those applicants with pending long-term visa applications who originate from countries that are visa restricted, would require a port of entry visa and their VFS receipt in order to be re-admitted into South Africa.

3. The temporary measures mentioned in paragraph 2 above will apply only to foreign nationals who have been legally admitted into South Africa. Any further extension, modification, or amendments to the terms of these concessions will be communicated in writing.

**MR L.T. MAKHODE**
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**
**DATE:** 27 June 2022.