



Global NewsFlash

South Africa — Closure of the Zimbabwean Special Permit (ZSP) and the Opening of the New Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP)

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Overview

The Zimbabwean Special Permit (ZSP) process started in 2014 and the permit was issued for a period of three years. The total number of ZSP permits issued was 197 941.

On 08 September 2017 the Department of Home Affairs “the Department” announced the closure of the Zimbabwean Special Permit and the opening of the new Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP).

Context of the New ZEP Dispensation

It’s believed that migrants play an important role in respect of economic development and enriching social and cultural life in South Africa and these dispensations have assisted in enhancing national security and the orderly management of migration.

This dispensation will assist greatly in advancing the objectives of the Department’s National Development Plan, Vision 2030 particularly in respect of the focus on the economy, attracting critical skills into the country and ensuring transfer of skills to South African citizens for better employment prospects.

This approach is in line with the new White Paper on International Migration Policy to facilitate the movement of persons on the continent for the promotion of trade, development, transfer of skills and social cohesion through cultural integration.

Conditions of the New ZEP Dispensation:

- Entitle the holder to work/study and/or conduct business in South Africa.
- Does not entitle the holder to a right to apply for permanent residence irrespective of the period of stay in the Republic of South Africa.
- Will not be renewable/extendable.
- Does not allow the holder to change conditions of his/her permit while in South Africa.
- ZSP permit holders who wish to convert their status to any other mainstream visa should apply timeously for such visa

from within SA provided they meet all the requirements for that visa.

- A ZSP applicant will be allowed to travel using the ZEP receipt and the expired ZSP permit until such time as the ZEP permit is issued, without being declared undesirable.

Implementation of the ZEP

- The new Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP) project will start on 15 September 2017.
- The ZEP is open for valid ZSP permit holders only.
- It's advisable that prospective applicants submit their applications online, from 15 September 2017, through the Visa Facilitation Services website.
- The cut-off date for submission of the applications is 30 November 2017.
- An administrative fee of R1090.00 will be charged per application.
- ZEP permits will be issued for a maximum period of Four (4) years, effective from 01 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2021, notwithstanding the date of application.
- Thereafter applicants will be allocated appointments for the required submission of fingerprints and supporting documents to VFS Centre, from 01 October 2017. The relevant VFS Centre offices are listed at the end of this alert.
- An applicant will be required to submit the following:
 - A valid Zimbabwean passport.
 - Evidence of employment – in the case of an application for work rights.
 - Evidence of business – in the case of an application for business rights.
 - Evidence of an admission letter from a recognised learning institution – in the case of an application for study rights.

List of VFS Centre Offices where ZSP Holders may Apply for their ZEP's

LOCATIONS/OFFICES WHERE ZSP HOLDERS MAY APPLY FOR THEIR ZIMBABWEAN EXEMPTION PIMITS (ZEP)	
LOCATION	ADDRESS
Durban	Musgrave towers, Musgrave Shopping mall, 5th Floor Musgrave, Durban
Cape Town	2 Long street, 7th Floor, Cape Town
Port Elizabeth	Office 7C, 1st floor Moffet and Main, Corner 17th Ave & Main Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth
Johannesburg	The Link, Old Pretoria Road, Half Way House, Midrand
Rustenburg	Cnr of Boom and Fatima Bayet street, Rustenberg
Kimberly	Unit 3 Building 2, Agri Office Park, N12 Kimberly
Polokwane	Thornhill Shopping Centre, Veldspaat and Munnik Avenue Bendor Park, Polokwane
Nelspruit	Office 5 F, Nedbank Building, 30 Brown Street, Nelspruit
Bloemfontein	Suite 4, The Park, 14 Reid Street Westdene, Bloemfontein
George	Unit 5 Eagle View , Progress Street, George

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Deloitte's view

We are in agreement with the Department of Home Affairs that the ZEP process will greatly assist Zimbabweans living in South Africa to rebuild their lives as they prepare for their return back to their home country of Zimbabwe in the future.

The ZEP, once issued will once again allow the holder to legally continue to conduct business, work or study in South Africa and to contribute to the South African economy whilst enhancing cultural and social unity.

The ZEP, furthermore falls within the objectives of the Department's National Development Plan to ensure that the identity of each and every individual in South Africa is correctly recorded as well as the movement of immigrants in and out of South Africa. This will ensure that the country's security levels are of the highest standard and to ensure that the integrity of the identities of everyone in South Africa remain uncompromised.

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