

Today's world moves beyond borders



Africa: A changing immigration landscape

OVERVIEW

Immigration in Africa can be complex and uncertain. Regulations and processes in many African countries are dynamic and local government operations can implement unexpected changes without sufficient notification or guidance. Some of the changes can be challenging to navigate for businesses and foreign nationals, whilst other developments present a positive outlook. Here is a snapshot of recent changes in the region:

EAST AFRICA

- **Governments of the East African Community (EAC):** Reviewing immigration laws to boost cross border movement of professionals, as previous efforts, such as mutual recognition of school certificates, proved unsuccessful. Further developments are expected in the coming months.
- **Kenya:** Increased enforcement of the rule requiring that foreign nationals seeking to work in Kenya should apply for a work permit prior to entry.
- **Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania:** Increased automation of the immigration process to improve the application experience.
- **Tanzania:** Development of scarce skills list to ensure the country attracts the needed professional skills. The consultation process closed on 19 October 2018.

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WEST AFRICA

- **Cote D' Ivoire:** Partnership with private sectors for the delivery of immigration services.
- **Cote D' Ivoire and Nigeria:** Focus on security and ease of identification through the introduction of biometric cards.
- **Ghana:**
 - Launching of immigration strategy to modernise the system.
 - Improvement in stakeholder engagement through the introduction of an International Relations Desk to liaise with clients.
 - Crackdown on the abuse of business visas. Some companies known to abuse them are under scrutiny and have been instructed to inform the authorities about the presence of expats on business visas.
- **Ghana and Nigeria:** Strict enforcement of localisation rules in the oil and gas sector. Increased workplace audits.
- **Nigeria:** Focus on abuse of immigration quotas.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

- **Angola and Mozambique:** Increased automation of the immigration process. Focus on abuse of quotas.
- **Angola, Mozambique and South Africa:** Increased efforts to ease movement of business travellers through visa waivers. Increased workplace audits.
- **South Africa:** Review of scarce skills list to boost attraction of skills.

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