

Today's world moves beyond borders

South Africa

NEW MEASURES TO BOOST TOURISM AND SKILLS. THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- **Travelling with minors:** Currently, foreign national minors seeking to travel to South Africa must carry documentation proving parental consent, including an unabridged birth certificate. This documentation will likely become recommended rather than mandatory in December 2018.
 - **Impact:** Foreign nationals will no longer be barred from entering South Africa without parental consent documentation, though immigration officials may still request such documentation for nationals from high-risk countries. This should make travelling with minors easier.
- **Visa waivers:** Negotiations are being finalised for visa waiver agreements for ordinary passport holders from the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Sao Tome & Principe, Saharawi-Arab Democratic Republic, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.
 - **Impact:** Such visa waiver agreements will simplify entry into South Africa for qualified nationals of these countries.
- **Simpler visa requirements:** Chinese and Indian nationals will soon benefit from biometric submission upon arrival and submission of visa applications via courier. The Department of Home Affairs has stated that these benefits should be available by the end of 2018 and that it will consider extending these benefits to nationals of Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda in the future.
 - **Impact:** The simplified process will allow easier access into South Africa for business and investment opportunities.
- **Long-term multiple entry visas:** Long-term multiple entry visas for frequent travellers have been implemented. This includes a three-year multiple entry visa for trusted travellers to South Africa and a ten-year multiple-entry visa for business visits and academics from Africa.
 - **Impact:** This will ease movement of travellers for tourism, business meetings and academic exchange.
- **BRICS Visa:** Business travellers from China and India are issued a 10-year multiple entry visa. They can use courier services to apply for their visa, whereas previously they could not.
 - **Impact:** These benefits will expedite the business visa process for Chinese and Indian nationals.
- **Critical skills list review:** Consultations are being finalised for the new critical skills list (for the Critical Skills Work Visa) to be reviewed. The review and updated list is expected to be completed by April 2019.
 - **Impact:** An updated list will allow for further critical skills to be assessed and allowed as part of the Critical Skills Visa programme, which should expand the amount of foreign nationals qualifying for a Critical Skills Visa.

Today's world moves beyond borders

South Africa

- **Foreign students with critical skills:** Foreign students who graduate from South African institutions within critical skills categories will be offered an opportunity to apply for permanent residence upon graduation. Foreign students not seeking permanent residence may apply for Critical Skills Visa.
 - **Impact:** This will allow more foreign graduates to permanently reside in South Africa after their studies.
- **Biometric movement control system, eVisa and eGates:** These systems will be piloted at several airports in the upcoming months, to be completed by 2019. The eVisa system will be piloted for South African nationals travelling to New Zealand by April 2019.
 - **Impact:** The focus on technology and automated systems will allow for a faster, more efficient process for foreign nationals seeking to enter South Africa.

Background

The proposed changes follow a regression in tourism and investment in South Africa due in part to complicated and stringent visa requirements.

Looking ahead

Following a successful pilot, the various programmes will be institutionalised to create more efficient systems. Fragomen will continue to provide ongoing reports on implementation updates.

CONTACT US:



GAVIN COLACO

Practice Leader

E: gcolaco@fragomen.com

T: +27 (0) 11 684 9094



KHEHLA MIYA

Senior Manager

E: kmiya@fragomen.com

T: +27 11 684 9044

Fragomen in South Africa is Fragomen Africa (Pty) Ltd., an immigration consultancy. Our Johannesburg office assists with immigration into South Africa and Sub Saharan Africa.