

Forfeiture of repatriation deposits

The Director-General of the Department of Home Affairs invites any person who, prior to the coming into operation of the Immigration Amendment Act, 2011 on 26 May 2014, paid deposit as a guarantee of the return to his or her country of origin, to approach, within a period up to 28 February 2015, any South African Mission in his or her country of origin for a refund of his or her deposit. The Department of Home Affairs' Offices within the Republic may issue refunds only in exceptional circumstances where a person has acquired permanent residence permit or has changed his or her status in the Republic prior to 26 May 2014.

Failure to claim a refund by 28 February 2015 will result in the deposit forfeited to the State as unclaimed.

Please also note that anyone who had overstayed his or her permit shall not qualify for a refund, as he or she would have violated the terms and conditions of his or her temporary residence permit.

Postponement of the requirements unabridged birth certificates and written permission to June 1st 2015

The requirements (of a child's unabridged birth certificate and written consent from parents) for the admission and departure of children in terms of section 9 of the Immigration Act, as amended, read with Immigration Regulation 6(12) will only come into operation on 1 June 2015.

SOUTH AFRICAN TEMPORARY PASSPORTS WILL NO LONGER BE ISSUED FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

Please be informed that the Department of Home Affairs will no longer issue temporary passports as from 1 September 2014. A temporary passport was initially issued as an interim travel document due to longer turn-around times taken to issue tourist passports which are valid for ten (10) years. This turn-around time has improved drastically rendering issuance of temporary passports redundant. Furthermore, South African temporary passports have been abused for corruption purposes and this threat remains, which puts South Africa at risk of the travel documents being unreliable and not trustworthy – the elimination of temporary passports aims to also remove this risk.

In emergency travel certificate (see will be issued to an applicant under circumstances of emergency travel purposes e.g. if a tourist passport is lost whilst abroad

SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS APPLYING FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PASSPORTS AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

Persons applying for South African passports and identity documents must submit their complete applications in person during the consular opening hours (Mon-Fri; 09:00-12:00) at the Embassy in Abidjan, where fingerprints are taken free of charge and copies of original documents certified – an appointment is necessary for this purpose.

THE NEW SMART IDENTITY DOCUMENT

The smart IDs will first be issued to all first-time ID and re-issue applicants.

It has a life span of at least 10 years. The new smart ID card has a microchip, which will house the necessary biometric data unique to every individual. The information on the chip will be laser-engraved to prevent tampering. Read more www.dha.gov.za