



# home affairs

Department:  
Home Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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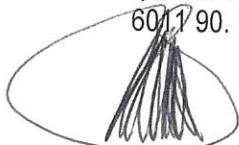
**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS  
HEAD OFFICE  
PROVINCIAL MANAGERS  
DISTRICT MANAGERS: OPERATIONS  
ALL FRONT OFFICES  
FOREIGN CO-ORDINATION  
SOUTH AFRICAN MISSIONS ABROAD**

## **DEPARTMENTAL CIRCULAR NO. 18 OF 2025: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REINSTATEMENT OF CITIZENSHIP PORTAL IN TERMS OF THE CITIZENSHIP ACT, 1995 (ACT NO. 88 OF 1995)**

1. The Constitutional Court (ConCourt) in Democratic Alliance v Minister of Home Affairs and Another (**CCT 184/23**) [2025] ZACC 8; 2025 (7) BCLR 779 (CC); 2025 (4) SA 323 (CC) (6 May 2025), in confirming the order of constitutional invalidity of the Supreme Court of Appeal, declared that section 6(1)(a) of the South African Citizenship Act, 1995 (Act No. 88 of 1995) (the "Act") is inconsistent with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (the "Constitution") and, therefore, invalid from its promulgation on 6 October 1995. The ConCourt further declared that those citizens who lost their citizenship by operation of section 6(1) (a) of the Act, are deemed not to have lost their citizenship.
2. To ensure compliance with the ConCourt judgement, the Department of Home Affairs (Department) has launched a dedicated online portal in line with the Department's vision for digital transformation for persons who are or have been adversely affected by the unconstitutionality of the provisions contained in the Act. A copy of the judgment is attached hereto and marked **Annexure A** for ease of reference.
3. Affected South Africans may now lodge an online application to confirm citizenship status or initiate the reinstatement process. It is important to note that this will only apply to those persons who have lost their citizenship on or after 6 October 1995.
4. Affected South Africans can begin the process by visiting [myhomeaffairsonline@dha.gov.za](mailto:myhomeaffairsonline@dha.gov.za).
5. As a result of the implementation of this portal, Missions and Front Offices must no longer issue retention letters. In light of this decision, the previously prescribed retention fee of R300-00 for citizens who were deemed to have lost their citizenship, is now waived.
6. South Africans who wish to acquire citizenship of another country may lodge an application without the retention letter (DHA1664 form), as it is no longer required.

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7. South Africans, including those who hold dual citizenship, are required to enter and exit the Republic with a valid South African passport. In the event that an urgent travel certificate is required, such persons may apply for a one-way Emergency Travel Certificate (ETC) to enter the Republic.
8. All Provincial Managers, District Managers: Operations, Office Managers, Supervisors and all Front Offices and Heads of Missions abroad are requested to take note of this judgment and familiarise themselves with the judgment. Provincial Managers, District Managers: Operations, Office Managers and Supervisors must ensure that all officials, reporting to them, are aware and familiar with the contents of this Circular.
9. Should Front Offices and Missions abroad have any enquiries regarding the above, they may direct such queries to the following email address: [hacc@dha.gov.za](mailto:hacc@dha.gov.za) or call the Departmental Call Centre number: 0800 601 190.



**B.T. MAVUSO**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 19/12/2025**