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Contents

<i>No.</i>		<i>Gazette No.</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS			
Home Affairs, Department of / Binnelandse Sake, Departement van			
5603	Immigration Act (13/2002): Re: Extension of validity of the exemptions granted in terms of section 31(2)(b) of the Act: Notice to all Zimbabwean Exemption Permit Holders	51696	3

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

NO. 5603

29 November 2024

NOTICE TO ALL ZIMBABWEAN EXEMPTION PERMIT HOLDERS**MINISTER'S IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 15 OF 2024****RE: EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF EXEMPTIONS GRANTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 31(2)(b) OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 13 OF 2002)**

1. I, Dr L. A. Schreiber, MP, Minister of Home Affairs, with the powers bestowed upon me in terms of section 31(2)(b) of the Immigration Act, ("Immigration Act") have decided to extend the validity of the Zimbabwean Exemption Permits ("ZEP") until 28 November 2025 in order for me to fulfill the duty placed on me by the Gauteng High Court to consult the affected ZEP holders and all other stakeholders on the future of the current dispensation.

2. The reactivation of the Immigration Advisory Board ("IAB") is currently underway and its first task will be to consider, advise and enable the steps required for compliance with the Order of the High Court on the future of the ZEP. In order to give the IAB time to properly do its work, and a fair process to be followed, I direct that:
 - 2.1. existing ZEPs shall be deemed to remain valid for the next (12) twelve months;

2.2. no holder of a ZEP may be arrested, ordered to depart or be detained for purposes of deportation or deported in terms of section 34 of the Immigration Act for any reason related to him or her not having any valid exemption certificate;

2.3. the holder of an exemption certificate may be allowed to enter into or depart from the Republic of South Africa in terms of section 9 of the Immigration Act, read together with the Immigration Regulations, 2014, provided that he or she complies with all other requirements for entry into and departure from the Republic, save for the reason of not having a valid visa endorsed in his or her passport; and

2.4. no ZEP holder should be required to produce a valid exemption certificate, visa or an authorisation letter to remain in the Republic as contemplated in section 32(1) of the Immigration Act when making an application for any category of the visa for temporary sojourn in the Republic as contemplated in section 10(2) of the Immigration Act.

3. Any enquiry related to the content of this Directive, should be directed to the Department's Contact Centre at hacc@dha.gov.za.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT CAPE TOWN ON THIS 28th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.



DR L.A. SCHREIBER, MP

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

DATE: 28 November 2024

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Contact Centre Tel: 012-748 6200. eMail: info.egazette@gpw.gov.za
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