



home affairs

Department:
Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DHA-57

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DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

:

HEAD OFFICE

REGIONAL OFFICES

PORTS OF ENTRY

OPERATIONAL CENTRE

VISA APPLICATION CENTRES

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS & COOPERATION**

:

CONSULAR SERVICES

IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 20 OF 2016

REPLACEMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE CLEARANCE REQUIREMENT WITH THE BIOMETRIC BACKGROUND CHECKS IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENCE VISAS AND PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS AT VFS OFFICES WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA

The Immigration Act, No.13 of 2002 requires amongst other supporting documents a submission of a police clearance certificate when making an application for a long-term temporary residence visa or permanent residence permit.

As part of the continuous service improvement and efficiency, the Department will be introducing a Biometric background check service which is linked to the South African Police Service Database. This service which will be provided at a value added cost of R175.00 (Incl. VAT) will replace the requirement to submit manual police clearance certificates obtained from SAPS.

It is envisaged that this improvement in the application process will greatly reduce the number of Appeals received by the Department based on the South African police clearance as a major rejection reason.

Applicants will no longer be required to submit RSA police clearance certificates when making an application for a renewal or extension of their visa within South Africa.

This business process improvement should be widely communicated to all applicants. It should also be noted that this process will only apply to the RSA police clearance. Where the applicant is required to submit a police clearance certificate from country of origin the current procedure will remain unchanged.

The implementation date of the biometric police clearance will be the 01st of October 2016.


MKHOSALI APLENI
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DATE: 15/09/2016

This Immigration Directive follows Immigration Directive No 19 Visa Adjudication system (VAS) changes:
Replacement of "issue date" with "valid from" on printed temporary residence visas issued by Home Affairs Permit office in Pretoria.