



**MINISTER
HOME AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X741, Pretoria, 0001, Tel: (012) 432 6635 Fax: (012) 432 6675
Private Bag X9102, Cape Town, 8000, Tel: (021) 469 6507, Fax: (021) 461 4191

Enquiries: Tel (012) 406-7068

E-mail: Phindiwe.mbhele@dha.gov.za

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

: **HEAD OFFICE**

VISA FACILITATION CENTRES

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION

:

IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 03 OF 2020

TEMPORARY VISA CONCESSION FOR CHINESE VISITORS AND WORKERS ON TEMPORARY RESIDENCE VISAS IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Following the first reports of cases of acute respiratory syndrome in the Chinese Wuhan municipality at the end of December 2019, Chinese authorities have identified a novel coronavirus as the main causative agent. The outbreak has rapidly evolved affecting other parts of China and outside the country. Cases have now been detected in several countries in Asia, but also in Australia, Europe, North America and South Africa.

Many airlines have cancelled flights to China, while some countries have banned Chinese nationals from entering and have evacuated its own citizens from Wuhan. It is against this background that I, in my capacity as Minister of Home Affairs, have made the following temporary concessions:

- a) Intra-Company Transfer work visa: Chinese nationals whose intra-company transfer work visas are due to expire within the next six months (until 31 July 2020) will be allowed to re-apply for a visitor's visa in terms of section 11(1)(a) with authorisation to conduct work as contemplated in section 11(2) of the said Act from within the country, provided they meet all the prescribed requirements. The applicants who qualify will be issued with a visitor's visa for a period not longer than 180 days. No change of status or conditions will be allowed.
- b) Visitor's visas: Chinese nationals whose visitors' visas have reached maximum validity period and are technically unrenewable in terms of section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act will be allowed to apply for the same visa with same conditions for a period not longer than three months. No change of status or conditions will be allowed.
- c) Chinese nationals who are holders of temporary residence visas which expired since 01 December 2019 and those which will be expiring up to 29 February 2020 will be allowed to submit renewal applications for expired visas without the need to first obtain a FORM 20 (Authorisation for an illegal foreigner to-remain in the country pending an application for status).

This temporary visa concession is applicable only to Chinese nationals who were legally admitted into South Africa through a port of entry and will apply until the 31 of July 2020. Any further extension or modification or amendments to the terms of this concession will only be valid if communicated in writing.



**DR PA MOTSOLEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**

DATE: 17/2/2020

This Immigration Directive follows Immigration Directive No. 2 of 2020 which deals with "Directive to Missions"