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REMARKS BY DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER MALUSI GIGABA IN RESPECT OF THE ZIMBABWEAN SPECIAL DISPENSATION PERMIT

The Department of Home Affairs confirmed that the highly anticipated Zimbabwean Dispensation Permits will be able to be extended. This proposal was accepted by Cabinet on 6 August 2014.

As such, the closure of the Dispensation for Zimbabwe Project (DZP), will occur as of 31 December, 2014.

As a result, it is important to note that the expiry date of all DZP permits which expire before 31 December 2014 is delayed until 31 December 2014. The expiry date of those DZP permits which expire after December 2014, is brought forward to 31 December 2014. As such all DZP permits, regardless of the date of expiry contained on the permit will expire on 31 December 2014.

The DZP permits will then be replaced by the Zimbabwean Special Dispensation Permit (ZSP).

To be able to apply for a ZSP permit the applicant MUST have a valid Zimbabwean passport, evidence of employment, business or accredited study and a clear criminal record.

The ZSP will be issued in the categories of work, business and study in South Africa, for the duration of the permit, which is valid until 31 December 2017.

Applications will open on 01 October 2014 and close on 31 December 2014.

Applications will be managed by VFS (Visa Facilitation Services) and adjudicated by the Department of Home Affairs.

An administrative fee will apply, which the Department of Home Affairs has yet to announce.

It is vitally important to note that ZSP permit-holders who wish to stay in South Africa after the expiry of the ZSP, MUST return to Zimbabwe to apply for mainstream visas and permits under the Immigration Act, subject to the relevant requirements. These applications will be considered within 12 months of the expiry of the ZSP permits being from January 2017.

Should you wish to apply for a ZSP permit please send us an email to enquiries@immigration.org.za with a copy of your passport and current permit.

Our website at www.immigration.org.za will also carry updates as and when they happen.

**AS ALWAYS, WE ENDEAVOR TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE
ON ALL IMMIGRATION RELATED ISSUES**

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