



**MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

PRESS STATEMENT

Clarification on Work Visa Applications for Foreigners

Further to the pronouncement by H.E. President William Ruto on the above subject, we wish to provide clarity as follows:

1. On 1 January 2024, the Government of Kenya implemented a visa-free entry regime for visitors from across the world. In January 2025, the Government further approved the removal of Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) requirements for citizens of most African countries. The move has created a positive impact on the country, particularly in tourism and investment. We continue to apply the directive to its fullest degree possible.
2. There has been deliberate misuse of visa applications by some visitors, leading to persons on investor or tourist status engaging in activities contrary to the provisions of the grant. Owing to the high number of foreigners involved in the retail and local trade sectors, there is therefore a need to align their activities and ensure compliance with work permit provisions. Persons found in contravention of the applicable visa provisions will have their visas revoked in accordance with the law.
3. Visa-free entry or exemption from eTA requirements does not in itself confer the right to engage in employment, trade or business in Kenya. Such activities remain subject to the applicable immigration, work permit and other regulatory requirements.
4. Kenya is a signatory to the East African Community and has assented to the free movement of goods and people across the Customs Union. This commitment remains an important consideration in the implementation of immigration and work permit requirements affecting citizens of EAC Partner States.
5. The enforcement and implementation of the directive will be in compliance with the law and will be conducted in an orderly and transparent manner, and also in the spirit of the East African Community.

Kenya remains open and welcoming to legitimate investors and businesses that operate within the law and contribute to the country's economic growth, job creation and development.

Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, EGH
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry
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