

Minister of Home Affairs
Dr Pakishe Aaron Motsoaledi
909 Arcadia Street
Pretoria
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By e-mail: Minister@dha.gov.za

Dear Minister Motsoaledi

REQUEST FOR URGENT INTERVENTION: BUSINESS TRAVEL INTO SOUTH AFRICA

It has come to my attention, through multiple complaints from business executives wanting to travel to the Western Cape for business and immigration attorneys, that the process of obtaining permission to travel to South Africa for business from high-risk countries is severely constrained at present.

From the complaints I have received it appears as if business travellers who applied the day of the new regulations having been released have had no response from 'Covid19BusinessTravel@dha.gov.za' email address despite 12 days having passed. Either there are no staff assigned to manage the email address, or the email address is severely under-staffed.

At a time when economic recovery is paramount and when there is clearly a high demand for business travellers to visit South Africa and stimulate the economy, it is unacceptable that the mechanism to do this is not working.

I would urge you to intervene in this matter with extreme urgency to ensure that the backlog of requests sent to the 'Covid19BusinessTravel@dha.gov.za' email address are processed as a matter of urgency and that there is sufficient capacity answers to all new applications made within 24 hours of receipt.

Alternatively, as per my recent submission to the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nkosozana Dlamini-Zuma, the 'red-list' of countries not permitted to travel to South Africa should be scrapped. Instead, all travellers should be required to produce proof of a negative Covid-19 test result not older than 72 hours from the time of departure, supplemented by vigorous screening on arrival and antigen testing at the airport in the event of presentation of symptoms followed by quarantine and isolation if need be.

I trust that you will take this matter up with the urgency it requires.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maynier', with a stylized initial 'M'.

MR DAVID MAYNIER

PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

DATE: 12 OCTOBER 2020