

Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2023



South Africa

President announces significant immigration changes expected in the future

Executive summary

On 9 February 2023, the President of South Africa announced significant immigration changes, which are expected to be implemented in the future.

Key developments

At his recent State of the Nation Address in Cape Town, President Cyril Ramaphosa [announced](#) that the South African government has conducted a comprehensive review of the country's work permit system with a view to attract skilled talent to the economy. Based on the review, President Ramaphosa stated that the following changes are expected to be introduced in South African immigration legislation in the near future:

- ▶ Introduction of a remote worker visa
- ▶ Establishment of a flexible points-based system to attract skilled foreign nationals
- ▶ Implementation of a "trusted employer" program to simplify the immigration process for "large" investors
- ▶ Streamlining of immigration application requirements
- ▶ Special dispensations for high-growth start-ups

Further details are awaited, including when these changes are expected to go into effect.

Impact on employers

Once these changes are implemented, South African employers are expected to benefit from access to a larger talent pool and simplified immigration application processes.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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EYG no. 001372-23Gbl

2101-3682263
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