

CIRCULAR 22 / 2016

FROM : CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TO : MUNICIPAL MANAGERS

DATE : 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

LESOTHO SPECIAL PERMIT PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Circular is to inform municipalities of the Lesotho Special Permits (LSP) Programme, as introduced by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA).

2. Background

In October 2015, Cabinet approved the implementation of the LSP. The intention of the Lesotho Dispensation is to regularise the stay of Lesotho nationals currently residing illegally in South Africa. The LSP Programme was launched on 1 February 2016 by the DHA. In August 2016, the DHA approached SALGA to request assistance with informing municipalities of the Programme and to request that municipalities to work with DHA to promote the LSP at the local level.

The programme falls under a special dispensation for Lesotho nationals who work, study or do business in South Africa and have been in the country before 30 September 2015. The closing date for applications for the LSP has been extended to **30 September 2016**.

To qualify for the LSP, a Lesotho national must:

- Be registered on the National Population Register (NPR) system of Lesotho
- Have a Lesotho ID card
- Have a valid passport or travel document with a Lesotho identity (ID) number
- Ensure that the passport is valid for a period of more than four years. If the validity period of the passport or the travel document is less than four years, the holder will bear the cost of the replacement of both the passport and the LSP into the new passport
- Have a Police Clearance Certificate from Lesotho that is not more than six-months old if they have been in South Africa for less than 12 months

- Applicants DO NOT need to apply for a South African Police Clearance Certificate. The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) in South Africa will obtain the South African Police Service clearance on behalf of all LSP applicants
- Provide proof of :
 - Employment or Affidavit from employer – to get a LSP Work Permit
 - Business registration with SARS and CIPRO – to get a LSP Business Permit
 - Registration with an educational institution – to get a LSP Study Permit

All supporting documents or letters from employer, school or business registration must state that the applicant has been residing in South Africa before 30 September 2015.

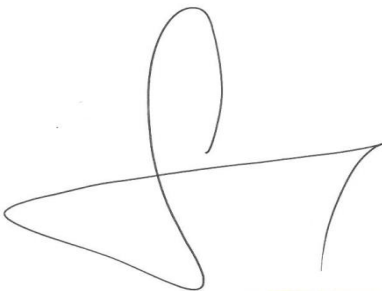
Benefits of the Lesotho Special Permit:

- Regularises the stay of Lesotho Nationals currently residing illegally in South Africa
- Assists in ensuring that all Lesotho Nationals in South Africa are here on a lawful basis, with correct documentation
- A once off cost of R970 enables Lesotho Nationals to work lawfully, be protected from exploitation, unnecessary harassment, unlawful labour practices, and fraud and corruption, while in South Africa.

3. Way Forward

We advise municipalities to take note of the LSP Programme and to work with the DHA on the implementation of the programme within your respective areas of jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right, ending in a small upward curve.

XOLILE GEORGE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER