

19 APRIL 2020

## NEWSLETTER ON THE REPATRIATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS

#repatriation



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Following the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Declaration by President Cyril Ramaphosa of a State of Disaster, a total of 3 639 South Africans indicated that they were stranded and required assistance to return to South Africa. The overwhelming majority are stranded as a result of the lockdowns announced in many countries and the almost complete cessation of flights.

*"We are dealing with a situation that none of us ever expected and in that context, we must strive to do the best that we can. We are doing all that we can to repatriate citizens stranded abroad."*

– Minister Naledi Pandor

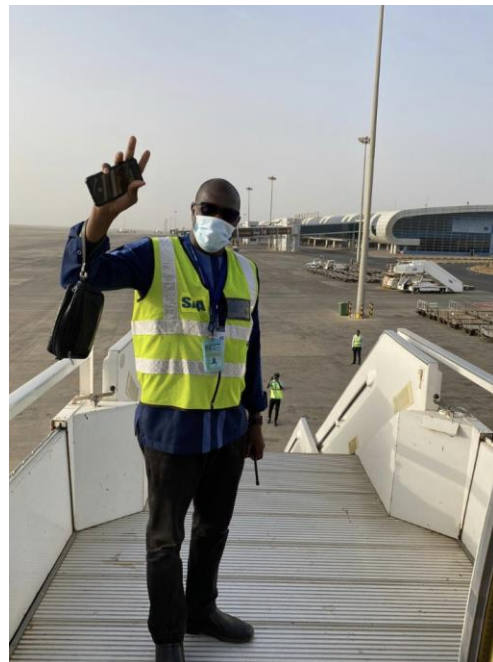


1 332 South Africans from 17 countries

### ARRIVALS TO DATE



- ✈ On 8 April 2020, 66 South Africans were repatriated from Brazil on a South African Airways (SAA) flight.
- ✈ Also on 8 April 2020, a group of 67 South Africans were repatriated from Frankfurt, Germany. They included 39 from Germany, 14 from Portugal, 10 from Ireland, three from Nepal and one from Italy.
- ✈ On 10 April 2020, four South Africans arrived from Afghanistan with a private charter.
- ✈ Also on 10 April 2020, 49 South Africans landed in Cape Town from Namibia with a private charter.
- ✈ On 11 April 2020, a group of 41 South Africans left the Maldives with a private charter.
- ✈ On 12 April 2020, a SAA flight from Brussels to Johannesburg, with a stop-over in Lagos, repatriated 119 South Africans.
- ✈ Also on 12 April 2020, another SAA flight from London to Cape Town repatriated 201 South Africans.
- ✈ On 13 April 2020, a SAA flight from Ghana to Johannesburg repatriated 62 South Africans.
- ✈ On 15 April 2020, a SAA flight chartered by Workaways International in the United States of America repatriated 305 South African workers.
- ✈ On 16 April 2020, an Ethiopian Airlines cargo flight from Addis Ababa repatriated 13 South Africans.
- ✈ On 17 April 2020, a SAA-chartered flight arrived in Johannesburg from Luanda, Angola, transporting 84 South Africans.
- ✈ On 18 April 2020, 80 South Africans arrived in Johannesburg from Rome.
- ✈ On 19 April 2020, 206 South Africans arrived in Johannesburg from Frankfurt.
- ✈ Also on 19 April 2020, 35 South Africans arrived in Johannesburg from Angola.





## Challenges in Peru, Indonesia and Pakistan

*“We are aware of the 34 South Africans stranded in Lima, Peru. Through our Ambassador in Peru, we are in regular contact with the group and all efforts are being made to try to get them back home.*

*“A further 307 citizens are stranded in Thailand as well as about 140 in Bali, Indonesia. Through our missions in these countries, we are trying to find solutions to bring them home.*

*“The private charter collecting stranded South Africans from Pakistan will depart South Africa as soon as the Pakistani Government grants approval for the flight to land and board the passengers. The High Commission in Islamabad is in continuous contact with the Foreign Ministry to facilitate the approval processes.” – Minister Naledi Pandor*

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Sasol has availed over a million liters of jet fuel. This is enough to power an A340-600 aircraft for five long haul trips.**

**“This will go a long way in assisting us to bring our citizens home and for the transportation of urgent medical supplies.” – Minister Naledi Pandor**

## In the News

### Stranded SA travellers are slowly being brought back home

*Daily Maverick*  
17 April 2020

International Relations and Cooperation Minister Naledi Pandor said she was pleased that more than 60 stranded South Africans had returned from Brazil this week and about 300 had returned from Miami on Wednesday while more were expected from the US on Thursday.

The South African government has so far repatriated more than 600 of the 3 639 South Africans known to have been stranded abroad by coronavirus lockdowns and is “slowly whittling down” the list.

International Relations and Cooperation Minister Naledi Pandor said she was pleased that more than 60 stranded South Africans had returned from Brazil this week and about 300 had returned from Miami on Wednesday while more were expected from the US on Thursday. But some “sticky areas” were proving difficult, she said.

“For example Thailand. We haven’t yet cracked it. As well as permissions from some countries. We are waiting for Pakistan to give us the go-ahead. There’s a charter ready to return around 84 South Africans from Pakistan.

For the full article, go to:  
<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-04-17-stranded-sa-travellers-are-slowly-being-brought-back-home/amp/>



### It’s our diplomatic duty to bring South Africans back home – DIRCO

*Mail & Guardian*  
18 April 2020

Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Naledi Pandor said on Thursday, 16 April 2020, that it was the government’s duty to ensure that South Africans who were stuck overseas were brought back home.

“As the department, in terms of international law, DIRCO has the responsibility to provide assistance to South Africans [who] are in distress outside our borders. We have not neglected the individuals [who] have approached us, and said, ‘Please help’,” said the minister.

“All countries are in lockdown — it’s not a matter of saying ‘I want to come back’, and it happens tomorrow — we have to negotiate,” said the minister, adding that the department has to ensure that people who return know that they will be subjected to a 14-day quarantine.

For the full article, go to:  
[https://mg.co.za/article/2020-04-17-its-our-diplomatic-duty-to-bring-south-africans-back-home-dirco/?amp=1&twitter\\_impression=true](https://mg.co.za/article/2020-04-17-its-our-diplomatic-duty-to-bring-south-africans-back-home-dirco/?amp=1&twitter_impression=true)

### We are doing all we can to repatriate citizens stranded abroad - Naledi Pandor

*Radio 702*, 17 April 2020

According to the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, over 600 South Africans from around the world have been repatriated.

Minister Naledi Pandor says over 3 600 South Africans had asked to be brought back home through various missions.

The minister joined Bongani Bingwa to shed more light on the matter.

Listen to the full interview:  
[http://www.702.co.za/articles/381054/we-are-doing-all-we-can-to-repatriate-citizens-stranded-abroad-naledi-pandor?UTM=whatsapp\\_article\\_share](http://www.702.co.za/articles/381054/we-are-doing-all-we-can-to-repatriate-citizens-stranded-abroad-naledi-pandor?UTM=whatsapp_article_share)

### Did you know?

You can listen to full *Ubuntu Radio* interview with Minister Naledi Pandor on COVID-19 and the repatriation of South Africans on:  
<https://m.soundcloud.com/ubunturadioza/sa-minister-of-int-relations-dr-pandor-on-corona-virus-and-repatriation-of-sa-citizens>



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Why does it seem that it is easy in some countries to repatriate citizens and in some countries more difficult?**

A: Lockdowns mean that countries don't allow any airlines to fly out or into the country except with special permission through repatriation. Getting the final approval takes quite long and a lot of negotiations have to take place through our missions abroad.

**Q: Are South Africans being repatriated screened before boarding?**

A: All South Africans abroad are subjected to screening prior to boarding any flight during the current COVID-19 restrictions. South Africans found to be symptomatic will not be allowed to travel and will be subjected to the host country's health requirements. These measures are in line with the World Health Organisation's guidelines.

**Q: Who pays for the repatriation and quarantine?**

A: All South Africans being repatriated are expected to pay an agreed airfare. Payments are made prior to being allocated a seat. In terms of the current regulations, every passenger should also enter into quarantine for a minimum of 14 days at an identified government site.

**Q: What is the process when South Africans land in South Africa?**

A: On board screening is done by Port Health before disembarkation. Once cleared by immigration, passengers are escorted to an identified facility for the 14-day quarantine period.

**Q: Can South Africans return to South Africa through the land borders?**

A: South Africans have and will be allowed to return to the country through land borders from neighbouring countries in line with the approved Home Affairs regulations during the National Disaster to ensure that they are indeed South Africans.

**Q: Except for those repatriated from Ethiopia, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria and Angola, have there been any further repatriation flights from other African countries?**

A: Many South Africans also returned via land borders.

**STAY  
HOME**

**SAVE SOUTH AFRICA**

**TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS**



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