Last amended: 12.10.2026

APPLICATION FOR A RETIRED PERSON VISA

A retired person visa may be issued for a period exceeding three (3) months to a foreigner, who intends to retire in the Republic of South Africa on a seasonal or continuous basis, provided that such foreigner has –

a) the right to a pension or an irrevocable annuity or retirement account which will give such foreigner a *prescribed* minimum payment for the rest of his or her life from the country of his or her origin; **or**
b) a minimum *prescribed* net worth.

PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS CHECKLIST AND SUBMIT IT WITH THE COMPLETE VISA APPLICATION!

The complete visa application must be submitted **in person** to the office of application (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Business_hours.doc).

	The following documentation must be submitted by each applicant. Please keep / submit the documentation in the order as listed below.	**Mission**
1	**Original machine-readable passport** • Validity of no less than thirty (30) days after the foreigner's intended departure from the Republic of South Africa. • Passports must have at least two (2) blank pages for endorsements. • Non-machine readable / handwritten passports are not accepted / recognised. • **Original** second passport, if the applicant holds one, shall also be presented. • In the case of visa applicants who are not German citizens, proof of long-term residence (*Aufenthaltstitel*) in Germany must be provided in the form of: a) the residence permit or **original** *Chipkarte* (and a photocopy); or b) in the case of EU citizens, the **original** '*Anmeldebescheinigung'* (and a photocopy).	☐ ☐ ☐
2	**Passport photocopies** • Of the passport page with the applicant's personal data / photograph. • Of all previous visas for the Republic of South Africa in the passport. • Of second passport, if the applicant holds another passport.	☐
3	**One fully completed application form DHA-1738** • Must be downloaded and printed: http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/DHA-1738.pdf. • All questions must be answered in English – questions that don't apply may be completed with 'n/a'. • A 'fingerprint form' is not required to be completed by applicants. • Applicants must provide an email address under Part 4 (may be written below telephone number). • 'Contact person' under Part 4 refers to someone in Germany. • 'Proposed date and place of departure for the Republic' under Part 5 means the date and place of departure from Germany. • Full details of the intended duration of stay in, and intended date of departure from the Republic of South Africa must be completed under Part 5. • The question, 'Have you ever been refused entry into or deported from the Republic' under Part 7 must be completed with either 'yes' or 'no', and details provided, if the answer is 'yes'.	☐
4	**One (1) biometric photograph** • Should be a recent photograph, not older than 6 months. • Photographs must be taken and printed professionally – photographs printed at home would be rejected.	☐

5	**Proof that the applicant has –** **a) the right to a pension or an irrevocable annuity or retirement account which will give such foreigner a minimum payment of R37 000,00 (the euro equivalent at the current exchange rate) per month for the rest of his or her life from the country of his or her origin; or** **b) a combination of assets realising R37.000,00 (the euro equivalent at the current exchange rate) per month.** • The minimum payment contemplated in (a) above may be proven by written confirmation of the right to pension or an irrevocable annuity or retirement account from the relevant institution, state pension agency or insurance company **and** certified bank statements (*Kontoauszüge*) from the last six months showing such payments into the applicant's bank account. • A combination of assets realising the determined amount contemplated in (b) above may be proven through the following documentation: i. **interest** accrued from capital and investments from bank(s) / credit institution(s) **and** certified bank statements (*Kontoauszüge*) from the last six months showing payments / monthly income; and / or ii. **dividends** paid from stocks and shares from bank(s) / credit institution(s) **and** certified bank statements (*Kontoauszüge*) from the last six months showing payments / monthly income; and /or iii. in respect of **rental income**, proof of property ownership (*Grundbucheintrag*), lease agreement (*Mietvertrag*) **and** certified bank statements (*Kontoauszüge*) from the last six months showing rental payments / monthly income. • The prescribed financial requirement / monthly income shall be **original or copies authenticated by the issuing authority of the country of origin and translated into English** and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator (*beeidigter Übersetzer*) at the expense of the applicant. Bank statements (*Kontoauszüge*) however do not have to be translated into English. • If an original document / confirmation letter is submitted, it must be accompanied by a photocopy, which will be certified; the original document will then be given back to the applicant.	☐ ☐
6	**An <u>original</u> police clearance certificate** • Must be issued by the police or security authority in each country where the applicant, after attaining the age of 18 years, resided for 12 months or longer during the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the visa application, in respect of criminal records or the character of that applicant. • Shall not be older than six months at the time of its submission. • In respect of the police clearance certificate for Germany, the 'normal' certificate regarding the entries over the last 5 years, which is sent to the applicant's private address, may be submitted. If there are no entries (*Keine Eintragung*) on a police clearance certificate for Germany, it does not have to be translated into English. • In the case of applicants who have previously held retired person visas / permits for the Republic of South Africa with a validity of 12 months or longer, they shall **also** submit South African police clearance certificates.	☐

7	**In respect of dependent children accompanying the applicant or joining the applicant in the Republic of South Africa**, proof of parental responsibilities and rights or written consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent or legal guardian, as the case may be (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Parental_consent_letter.doc); **certified copies** of the parents' / legal guardians' passports or identity documents (*Ausweis*) must also be attached.	☐
8	**In respect of a spouse accompanying the applicant or joining the applicant in the Republic of South Africa, a copy of a marriage certificate or proof of a permanent homosexual or heterosexual relationship (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Permanent_spousal_relationship.doc)** • If a marriage certificate is not in English, it must be translated and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator; alternatively, applicants who got married in Germany may submit an 'international marriage certificate'.	☐
9	**A yellow fever vaccination certificate** • Only required, if the foreigner travelled or intends travelling from or transiting through a yellow fever endemic area to the Republic of South Africa. • The certificate shall not be required where that person travelled or intends travelling in direct transit through such an area. (See also http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Yellow_fever.doc)	☐
10	**Proof of payment of the applicable fee** • Payment of the application fee must be made through an electronic bank transfer (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Application_fee.doc). • A copy of the transfer / deposit slip must be submitted as proof of payment. • Payment must be made at least five working (5) days before submitting the application. • Payment of the application fee may not be made in cash at the Embassy in Berlin and Consulate-General in Munich!	☐
11	**An A4-size envelope franked with the ExpressEasy DHL-online label (National – 0,5kg)** • The franked envelope is required to return the applicant's passport – applicants may not collect passports in person after the application has been adjudicated. • The **ExpressEasy** DHL-online label may be purchased and completed online (see https://www.dhl.de/de/privatkunden/pakete-versenden/deutschlandweit-versenden/express-easy.html). Click the '**Expressversand**' tab to access the **ExpressEasy** DHL-online label • Applicants shall print their **ExpressEasy** franked DHL-online label, affix / glue it securely to an A4-size envelope and are advised to keep a record of the tracking number. • Only one (1) franked envelope may be submitted in the case of a couple or a family.	☐

FOR OFFICIAL USE (Not to be completed by the applicant)

Applicant's name: ……..……...

Application taken in to be processed ☐

Application not taken in due to incompleteness ☐

(**Please send this checklist, if the application shall be re-submitted**)

Date: Ref.:

Please note:

- *The spouse and dependent children accompanying the main applicant may be issued with a visitor's visa (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Visitors_Permit.doc); however, dependent children of school-going age accompanying the main applicant must be issued with study visas (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Study_Permit.doc).*

- *The Department of Home Affairs may authorise the holder of a retired person visa to conduct work in the Republic of South Africa under terms and conditions as the Department may deem fit to determine under the circumstances.*

- *A retired person visa may –*
  a) allow its holder to sojourn in the Republic of South Africa on a seasonal or continuous basis; and
  b) not exceed a four (4) year period, at the expiry of which it may be renewed one or more times.

- ***Status / progress reports are not provided during the above-mentioned processing period**. Furthermore, no 'express service' for processing visa applications is available – complete applications are adjudicated on a First-In-First-Out basis.*

- ***Visa applications which are not complete shall not be taken in to be processed.** It is therefore the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that his or her visa application is complete as per the checklist.*

- *In the case of inconsistencies and / or incomplete information, our office reserves the right to request the applicant to submit additional documentation to substantiate the visa application.*

- *Documentation that accompanies the visa application shall be original or copies authenticated by the issuing authority of the country of origin and where necessary, translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator (beeidigter Übersetzer) at the expense of the applicant.*

- *A visa issued at a foreign mission of the Republic of South Africa shall be affixed to the passport of the applicant and shall only be valid if an entry stamp has been affixed thereto at the port of entry and the date of such entry stamp shall be the effective date.*