

TO: DR SIYABONGA CYPRIAN CWELE
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
By e-mail: Minister@dha.gov.za
By post

TO: DEPUTY MINISTER FATIMA CHOCHAN
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
By e-mail: fatima.chohan@dha.gov.za
By post

TO: MS YOGIE TRAVERN
EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVERS
By e-mail: yogie.travern@dha.gov.za
By post

TO: MR KARL SLOTH-NEILSEN
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS
By email: Karl.Slothnielsen@dha.gov.za
By post

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS	
DATE RECEIVED	
2019 -03- 04	
SIGNATURE:	M/S/1
NAME:	

29 January 2019

Re: Meeting Request from the Angolan Cessation Committee

Honourable Minister Dr. Cwele, Ms. Chohan, Ms. Travern, and Mr. Sloth-Neilsen,

We, the undersigned, have formed a community-led Angolan Cessation Committee to advocate on behalf of the Angolan former refugee community in South Africa. Formed in May 2018, we have come together due to the concerns raised by those Angolans affected by the cessation of their status in 2013. We appreciate the developments that have been made thus far with regards to the documentation of this community and request a meeting with yourselves on future relevant matters.

Following the cessation of Angolan refugee statuses in 2013, a large percentage of Angolan refugees were successfully issued Angolan Cessation Permits. Upon expiry, and non-renewal, a lengthy negotiation ensued, resulting in the issuing of Angolan Special Permits ('ASP permit'). These ASP permits expire in 2021. We appreciate that the Department of Home Affairs decided to document ACP permit holders. We remain concerned, however, as several issues are causing deep concern to the Angolan community in South Africa. We would therefore like to discuss the following issues, with a view to finding workable solutions:

1. Concern regarding 2021 expiry of ASP permits

The Minister of Home Affairs granted the rights of permanent residency for a period of four years. Whilst ASP permit holders are relieved to be legal – after a long period of precarious legality – we are worried about what will happen in 2021. We have lived in South Africa for two decades and have adult children born here. We would like clarity from the Department of Home Affairs regarding these permits' expiry. We would like to start negotiations, with plenty of time, regarding the possibility of extending these permits.

2. Concern for spouses and children of ASP permit holders

We understand that the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs is aware of a group of foreigners who have been forced into an undocumented state - namely, third-national spouses and children of ASP permit holders. Third nationals who married Angolan refugees were documented as dependents in terms of Section 3(c) of the Refugees Act. Accordingly, the principle applicant in that file was Angolan. When their spouses' Angolan refugee status was ceased, their status too was ceased. As they are not Angolan nationals, however, they were not provided with an Angolan Cessation Permit. They have remained without documentation options, but are married to a documented ASP permit holder. Similarly, some children of ASP permit holders were too young or unable to be documented in their parents' refugee status, and could not access ASP permits.

This is a limited group of foreigners. We are requesting that the Department of Home Affairs consider developing a joining permit for these family members of ASP permit holders.

3. Those who missed ACP or ASP deadline

Several Angolan former refugees or asylum seekers missed the deadline for the Angolan Cessation Permit. This pertains only to those Angolan nationals who formerly held refugee status or asylum seeker permits. This issue is especially prevalent in smaller towns such as Port Elizabeth. Several individuals missed the time deadlines to apply for an Angolan Special Permit. Several were engaged in employment which means they were at sea (fishing) or working in remote parts of the country. This issue also results in these individuals being at risk of statelessness as they cannot always prove to the Angolan authorities that they are indeed Angolan nationals. We are requesting the Department of Home Affairs to expand applications to the Angolan Special Permit to allow those who have previously missed these deadlines, who had refugee or asylum seeker status, and who desperately want to legalize their stay in South Africa. This would require involvement from the Angolan consulate in South Africa.

We are able to meet in Cape Town or Pretoria, at a date that is convenient for you. We would like to meet at the soonest date available.

Best wishes,



Rosa Zeruia Gupite - angolancementationcommittee@gmail.com

On behalf of the Angolan Cessation Committee:

Ms Gupite (rosagupite1@gmail.com)

Mr Panzo (neloponzo@yahoo.com)

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Mr Antonio Fernando (antonio.fernando78@gmail.com)

Siyamthanda Skota - Re: Meeting request from the Angolan Cessation Committee

From: Siyamthanda Skota
To: angolancementationcommittee@gmail.com <angolancementationcommittee@gmail.com >
Date: 2019/03/04 12:08 PM
Subject: Re: Meeting request from the Angolan Cessation Committee

Good day,

On behalf of Dr SC Cwele, Minister of Home Affairs, receipt of your correspondence is hereby acknowledged.

Your correspondence has been forwarded to the relevant officials for their urgent attention.

Kind regards,

Mr Siyamthanda Skota

Department of Home Affairs

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