

AMENDMENTS TO THE KENYA VISA REGULATIONS

(REVISED EDITION - 2005)

Amendments to the Revised Kenya Visa Regulations 2004 shall remain in force until amended or revised.

CHAPTER 1 - IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

The attention of all applicants for visas should be drawn to immigration requirements set out below:

A. PASSPORTS

- i. Valid passports, or other travel documents including Seaman's Discharge Book, acceptable to the Government of Kenya are required for all persons wishing to enter Kenya.
- ii. Passports issued by the Governments of Taiwan (Nationalist China) are not recognized as valid travel documents and no official endorsement should be made therein:

B. PERMITS OR PASSES

Subject to the exemptions mentioned below, an immigration pass or permit is required by all persons, other than Kenya citizens wishing to enter Kenya.

C. EXEMPTIONS

All persons who are entitled to privileges and immunities under the Privileges and Immunities Act (Cap. 179) and who are covered under section 4(3) (a) to (g) of the Immigration Act (Cap. 172) Laws of Kenya.

D. VISITORS

A bona fide visitor may be issued with a visitor's pass on arrival at a port of entry into Kenya valid for a period not exceeding three months in the first instance provided that he is in possession of a valid passport or other travel document acceptable to the Government of Kenya, has a valid visa where required, is in possession of sufficient funds for subsistence while in Kenya and a return, or onward ticket to his country of origin, domicile or destination.

Travelers entering Kenya by road from Sudan, Somalia or Ethiopia should be advised to pass through the gazetted entry points and report immediately to an Immigration Officer.

Notes: Under no circumstances shall a paper visitor's pass be issued in advance to a person intending to come to Kenya for holiday or a business.

E. PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS

The following categories of persons are classified as prohibited Immigrants in Kenya and accordingly shall not be issued with visas or permitted to enter Kenya.

- (a) Any persons incapable of supporting himself/herself or his/her accompanying dependants in Kenya
- (b) Any person suffering from a mental disorder or being a mental defective
- (c) Any person who refused to submit to medical examination on arrival when required to do so by an Immigration Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Act.
- (d) Any person certified by a medical practitioner to be suffering from a disease, which shall make his/her presence in Kenya undesirable on medical grounds.
- (e) Any person who, not having received a free pardon has been convicted in any country including Kenya, of murder, or of any offence for which a sentence of imprisonment has been passed for any term and who, by reasons of such conviction and imprisonment is considered to be an undesirable immigrant.
- (f) Any person whose entry and presence in Kenya is deemed by the Minister to be contrary to national interests, including persons suspected to be involved with or sympathetic to terrorist groups.
- (g) Any prostitute person living on or receiving or who has lived on or received the proceeds of prostitution.
- (h) Any person in respect of whom there is in force an order directing him/her to remain out of Kenya
- (i) Any dependants of the persons mentioned in the foregoing categories and classes.
- (j) Any person or groups of persons who are involved or suspected to be involved in human trafficking.
- (k) Any person involved or suspected to be involved in money laundering.

CHAPTER II

VISA

TYPES OF VISAS

- a. Ordinary / Entry Visa
- b. Transit Visa
- c. Diplomatic Visa
- d. Official /Service Visa
- e. Multiple Journey Visa
- f. Courtesy Visa

Important

It should be noted that the possession of a visa for Kenya is not the final authority to enter Kenya. The Immigration Officer at the port of entry may refuse such a person permission to enter if he is satisfied that such a visitor is unable to fulfill the immigration requirements and that the entry and presence of such a visitor, in Kenya would be contrary to national interests even though such a person may be in possession of a valid visa for Kenya. Provided that any such refusal is consented to by the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, his deputy provincial heads of Immigration at Mombasa and Kisumu or any other Senior Officer so authorized to deputise.

- a) Ordinary/Entry Visas
These are visas required by all persons intending to enter Kenya for visits or residence and shall be issued strictly in accordance with the provisions of categories, 1, 2 and 3 of the Visa Regulations.
- b) Transit Visas
These are visas required by all persons intending to transit through Kenya for periods not exceeding seven days and shall be issued strictly in accordance with the provisions of categories 1,2 and 3 of the Visa Regulations.
- c) Diplomatic Visas
Diplomatic, Ordinary or Transit Visas are issued gratis to the holder of a Diplomatic Passport on official visits. These visas should be issued in accordance with the provisions of categories 1, 2 and 3 of the Visa Regulations.
- d) Official /Service Visas
Official / Service, Ordinary/Transit Visas are issued gratis to holders of Official or Service passports on official visits. These visas should be issued in accordance with the provisions of categories 1, 2 and 3 of the Visa Regulations.

- e) **Multiple Journey Visas**
All persons who are nationals of countries which require visas for Kenya and who by nature of their business or circumstances require to make frequent visits to Kenya may be issued with Multiple Journey Visas for Kenya within six (6) or twelve (12) months as the case may be.
- f) **Courtesy Visas**
Courtesy, Transit and Ordinary Visas may be issued gratis in accordance with the Provisions of categories 1, 2 and 3 of the Visa Regulations, where the applicant is not entitled to a Diplomatic Visa, but where it is considered by the issuing officer to be desirable on the grounds of international courtesy.

THERE ARE THREE (3) CATEGORIES OF VISAS

CATEGORY 1:

COUNTRIES WHOSE NATIONALS DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS TO ENTER KENYA

1a. COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES NAMELY:

The Bahamas	Jamaica	Samoa
Barbados	Lesotho	Seychelles
Botswana	Malawi	Singapore
Brunei Darussalam	Mauritius	Sierra Leone
Cyprus	Maldives	Swaziland
Dominica	Namibia	Tanzania
Fiji Island	Nauru	Tonga
Gambia	Nauru	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	Papua New Guinea	Tuvalu
Grenadines	St. Lucia	Uganda
Ghana	St. Vincent and The Vanuatu B	Zimbabwe
		Zambia

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOLLOWING COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WHOSE CITIZENS REQUIRE VISAS

- i. Nigeria
- ii. Australia, other than holders of diplomatic, official or service passports traveling on official business for visits of not more than 30 days.
- iii. Sri Lanka
- iv. South Africa (for visits of more than 30 days)

- v. Malaysia (for visits of more than 30 days)
- vi. Guyana
- vii. India
- viii. Antigua and Barbuda
- ix. St. Christopher and Nevis
- x. New Zealand (for visits of more than 30 days)
- xi. the UK (except serving members of the British military who are exempt from Immigration formalities)
- xii. Canada
- xiii. Ireland

1b. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS TO ENTER KENYA

- I. All persons whose passports are endorsed with valid Kenya re-entry passes or any other written authority in lieu of a re-entry pass.
- II. All passengers arriving and leaving by the same ship, and who do not leave the ship
- III. All passengers in transit through Kenya arriving and leaving by the same aircraft or transferring to another aircraft and who do not leave the international transit lounges at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport or Moi International Airport in Mombasa.
- IV. Holders of United Nations Organisation Laissez-Passers whilst on official UN Business.
- V. Holders of African Union Laissez-passers whilst on official A.U. business.
- VI. Holders of African Development Bank Laissez-Passers, whilst on official A.D.B. Business.
- VII. Holders of Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa Laissez-Passers, whilst on official ABEDA business.
- VIII. Holders of International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa Laissez-Passers, whilst on official I.R.L.C.O. business.
- IX. Holders of Desert Locust Control Organisation Laissez-Passers, whilst on official D.L.C.O. business
- X. Holders of COMESA Laissez-Passers, whilst on official COMESA business.
- XI. The manifested crew of ships and aircraft passing through or stopping in Kenya for periods not exceeding seven (7) days in the case of air crew and fourteen (14) days for ships crew.
- XII. Owners of private aircraft stopping over for refueling in Kenya and who do not leave the precincts of the airport.

1c. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES HAVE CONCLUDED VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT WITH KENYA

- i. Eritrea
- ii. Ethiopia
- iii. San Marino
- iv. Uruguay

CATEGORY 2

2. NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES, CLASSES AND CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WHO MAY BE ISSUED WITH VISAS ON APPLICATION EITHER ON ARRIVAL AT AN AIRPORT OF ENTRY OR AT ANY KENYA MISSION ABROAD

(a) Nationals of the following countries, classes and categories of persons may be issued with visas on application, without reference to the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, provided that they do not fall under the classes and categories of persons mentioned under Chapter 1, paragraph (E) of the Visa Regulations.

Albania	Germany	Panama
Angola	Greece	Paraguay
Algeria	Greenland	Pakistan
Australia	Guinea	Peru
Argentina	Guatemala	Phillipines
Bahrain	Guinea Bissau	Portugal
Belarus	Guinea	Poland
Belgium	Haiti	Qatar
Bhutan	Hungary	Reunion
Bolivia	Iceland	Romania
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Indonesia	Russia
Brazil	Ireland	Rwanda(gratis)
Bulgaria	Israel	Salvador
Burkina Faso	Italy	Sao Tome
Burma	Ivory Coast	Saudi Arabia
Benin	Japan	Slovak
Burundi	Kampuchea	Slovan
Bangladesh	Kazakhstan	Spain
Camdodia	Kirghistan	Sri Lanka
Canada	Korea(South)	St. Christopher Cape
Verde	Kuwait	Sudan
Central African Rep.	Laos	Surinam
Chad	Liberia	Switzerland
Chile(Nationalist)	Libyan	Sweden
China (China Peoples)	Liechtenstein	Thailand
Republic	Luxembourg	Togo

Columbia	Lithuania	Tunisia
Comoros	Macedonia	Turkey
	Madagascar	Turkmenistan
Congo(Brazzaville)	Malagasy	United Kingdom
Costa Rico	Malta	United Arab Emirates
Czech	Mauritania	Ukraine
Cuba	Mexico	U.S.A
Denmark	Moldavia	Uzbekistan
Djibouti	Monaco	Vatican City
DRC	Mongolia	Venezuela
Dominican Rep	Morocco	Vietnam
Egypt	Mozambique	Yemen
Equador	Nepal	Yugoslavia-and also
Equatorial Guinea	Netherlands	Former States of
Estonia	Nicaragua	Yugoslavia
France	Niger	Holderes of Hong
French Guyana	Norway	Kong Special
Gabon	Oman	Administrative
Georgia	Palau Pacific Isles	Region (HKSAR)

(b) Delegates attending regional or international conferences, meetings, workshops, seminars and courses sponsored by regional or international organizations of which Kenya is a member.

Spouses and children accompanying delegates who fulfill the requirements of paragraph 2 (b) above maybe issued with visas on application.

(c) Diplomats arriving to take up diplomatic assignments/appointments in Kenya may be issued with gratis entry visas on application and without reference to the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi provided that:-

- (i) Such persons produce documentary evidence of their official Assignment / Appointment to Kenya.
- (ii) Wives and children accompanying such diplomats who fulfill the requirements of category 2 (c) above; and provided such persons, their wives and children do not fall under chapter I paragraph "E" of the visa regulations.

(d) Diplomats and government officials coming to Kenya to conduct official business or transiting through Kenya may be issued with entry/transit visas on application and without reference to the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, for periods not exceeding seven (7) days, provided that:-

- i. Such persons produce documentary evidence of their nature of official business or transiting through Kenya, and spouses.
- ii. Spouses and children accompanying such diplomats and government officials who fulfill the requirements of category 2 (d) above and provided such persons, their spouses and children do not fall under Chapter 1, paragraph "E" of the visa regulations.

NOTE: Diplomats and government officials on private visits to Kenya and who are nationals of countries that require referred visas, shall have their visa applications referred to the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, for approval, in the usual manner.

CATEGORY 3

NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES, CLASSES AND CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WHO REQUIRE REFERRED VISAS

- (a)

Afghanistan	Senegal
Azerbaijan	Somali
Armenia	Syria
Cameroon	Tadjikistan
Iraq	
Jordan	
Lebanon	
Mali	
North Korea	
Nigeria (residing outside Nigeria)	
- (b) Nationals of the following countries who are holders of Diplomatic and official Civil Servants with Ordre de Mission" can be issued with Visas on application.
 - i. Cameroon
 - ii. Nigeria
 - iii. Senegal
- (c) Applicants against whom there is some local objections or doubt in the country where the application is made.
- (d) Stateless persons or persons not holding valid passports or other travel documents issued by their own country of nationality, including recognized refugee holders of the United Nations Refugee Travel Documents.

- (e) Prohibited immigrants as enumerated under Chapter I, paragraph 'E' of the Visa Regulations.
- (f) Persons who intend to enter Kenya as immigrants but have not applied for and obtained entry permits or passes from the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi.

CHAPTER III

FEES

a. Reference and reference fees

- i. Where reference to the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, is necessary before the issue of a visa, the completed application forms in duplicate with two recent passport size photographs of the applicant shall be forwarded to the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, for approval in the usual manner to reach him at least one month prior to the proposed date of the applicant's departure to Kenya.
- ii. Where a visa application is referred to the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, reference fee of US\$ shall be collected at the time of application. The applicant's passport shall be endorsed as follows:

Kenya visa applied for
 (place and date)

Fee US\$ 10 paid. Receipt No.....

The endorsement shall be made on a blank page and initiated by the visa officer. It shall be endorsed in such a manner, so as to leave enough space for the actual visa to be endorsed on the same page, if approved.

- i. Where a visa has been referred and approved by the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, it should be endorsed in the applicant's passport immediately below the "visa applied for" endorsement.
- ii. The visa Issuing Officer shall indicate the fee paid, official receipt number and quote the approval authority number and the date the visa is issued.
- iii. The reference fee charged shall be non-refundable and where a referred visa is approved and issued, the proper visa fee shall be charged thereof and no account taken of any reference fee paid.

b.) Husband/Wife/Children traveling on one passport.

Where a visa is granted to a husband it will cover his wife and minor children under the age of sixteen (16) years who are included in his passport or in the case of a woman, the children under sixteen years of age included in her passport.

c) Visa Fees

- a. The transit visa fee shall be US\$ 20
- b. The referral visa fee shall be US\$ 10 non-refundable.
- c. The current standard visa fee for an ordinary or a single journey entry visa shall be US\$ 50
- d. The standard fee for multiple journey visas shall be US\$ 100 for all Nationalities.

CHAPTER IV

QUASI-CONSULAR AGREEMENTS (FUNCTIONS)

The Government of Kenya acts in a quasi-consular capacity on behalf of the following Commonwealth countries. Visas and other consular services may be undertaken on behalf of these governments, by the Principal Immigration Officer, Nairobi, strictly in accordance with the quasi-consular agreements, entered into between the Government of Kenya and the respective countries.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 1. Gambia | 5. Sierra Leone |
| 2. Jamaica | 6. Singapore |
| 3. Lesotho | 7. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 4. Mauritius | 8. Tuvalu |

CHAPTER V

Address for Communication

All inquiries, where necessary, shall be made to:

The Principal Immigration Officer

Nyayo House

P. O. Box 30191

NAIROBI - Telephone: 254-020-222022, Nairobi, Fax No. 254-020-220731