

# IMPORTANT UPDATE ON ZEP



MEMBER  
ALERT

The Restaurant Collective held a stakeholder engagement with the Department of Home Affairs, Immigration Unit on 22 September 2023.

The meeting confirmed that in line with the Pretoria High Court order, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) has **further extended the deadline for Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP) holders** to change to another immigration status **until 30 June 2024**.



**To ensure that restaurant owners, operators, and their staff are prepared, please note the following:**

- ① Employees who currently hold a ZEP:**
  - ZEP is valid until 30 June 2024.
  - These employees may continue to work in South Africa until 30 June 2024, and will not be arrested.
- ② Employees who currently hold a ZEP:**
  - ZEP is valid until 30 June 2024.
  - May be eligible for a waiver that provides exemption from having to obtain a labour certificate from the Department of Employment and Labour before applying for a General Work Visa. This waiver can significantly expedite the process of obtaining a work visa.
  - Must be able to produce a receipt or proof of application for waiver.
- ③ Employees who have applied for other/alternative mainstream Visa in terms of the Immigration Act:**
  - Must be able to produce a receipt or proof of application.
  - These employees may continue to work in South Africa until 30 June 2024.

**Please ensure that the requisite documentation is updated and readily available for inspections.**

