

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA GRANTS APPROVAL FOR NIGERIANS TO TRAVEL BACK HOME WITH EXPIRED PASSPORTS.

Introduction

The **Nigerian Immigration Service ("NIS")** issued a directive on the **December 9, 2022** to all heads of Nigerian High Commissions, Embassies, Immigration Authority's, Airport Comptrollers and all Airlines ("**all relevant authorities**"). The directive seeks to notify all relevant authorities that the **Federal Government of Nigeria (the "FGN")** has approved Nigerians returning to Nigeria with an expired Nigerian International passport be admitted into the country.

Need-to-know Information!

By this directive, Nigerians can travel into the country with their expired Nigerian International Passports, and this is expected to apply to Nigerians entering the country from anywhere in the world.

The directive which is now in full effect confirms the following to all relevant authorities:

1. All Airlines to allow holders of expired Nigerian passports to board without hindrance.
2. All Nigerian Diplomatic Missions abroad to circulate the information in the letter to airline operators and border authorities of host countries for their action.

Conclusion

We applaud the FGN for this approval, which seeks to assist Nigerians with expired passports who want to visit Nigeria to do so without fear of being harassed by airlines.

We anticipate that this will be easily implemented for Nigerians all over the world, as requested by NIS.

This directive only applies to Nigerians entering the country and not to those leaving the country or visiting another country.

Lastly, it should be noted that the NIS has directed passport offices across the country to give priority attention to citizens residing outside the country. Hence, Nigerians entering the country with expired passports are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to renew their passports before attempting to leave the country, as the same waiver would not apply for entry into a country other than the home country.

Our team is available to assist with the process.

For more information on this newsletter, please contact



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