

South Africa Remains Open to **Lawful Migration**, Investment & Skilled Professionals

A statement from Machabeng Global Solutions on the current public discourse on immigration in South Africa — and what it means for you.

By Lebo Zukiswa Mapetla · CEO & Founder · Machabeng Global Solutions (Pty) Ltd

14 May 2026 | By **Lebo Zukiswa Mapetla** | CEO & Founder, **Machabeng Global Solutions**

5 min read

Dear Client,

Recent weeks have seen a notable rise in public commentary and organised demonstrations on the question of immigration in South Africa. At Machabeng Global Solutions — a South African **immigration advisory firm** serving foreign investors, skilled professionals, individuals and families seeking lawful entry to and residence in South Africa — we have received questions from clients and prospective clients seeking clarity on what this means for them, for their **South African visa applications** and for their plans to live, work, or invest in South Africa. We are writing to address those questions directly and to share our position as your immigration practitioner.

"South Africa remains open to lawful migration. The Immigration Act has not changed. The Department of Home Affairs continues to process applications. Your visa, your work permit, your Business Visa, your permanent residence — these remain valid."

— Lebo Zukiswa Mapetla, CEO & Founder, Machabeng Global Solutions

Lawful migration to South Africa: what the current discourse is, and what it is not

The public conversation in South Africa is, in substance, a conversation about undocumented and unlawful migration. It is **not** a conversation about the rights or position of foreign nationals who have entered South Africa through lawful channels. The legal framework that governs **South African visas** — including the **Business Visa**, the **Critical Skills Work Visa**, the **General Work Visa**, the Study Visa, the Relative's Visa, permanent residence and naturalisation — continues to apply in full. The protections that lawful applicants and visa holders enjoy under South African immigration law remain in place and the **Department of Home Affairs** continues to process applications under the same statutory framework.

That is an important distinction, and one that deserves to be stated plainly to anyone considering a move to, an investment in, or continued residence in South Africa.

What this means for your South African visa application or immigration status

If you are a current MGS client with a live application before the Department of Home Affairs, an active visa, or permanent residence in South Africa:

YOUR CURRENT STATUS — CONFIRMED

- ✓ Your application continues to be processed under the same Immigration Act framework that applied before
- ✓ Your existing visa, work permit, Business Visa, Critical Skills Work Visa, or permanent residence remains valid according to its terms
- ✓ The team at MGS continues to manage every step of your immigration matter with the same standard of diligence
- ✓ Where we identify any change in South African immigration regulation, DHA policy, or process that affects your matter, we will communicate it to you directly and promptly

If you are a prospective client considering a move, an investment, or a relocation to South Africa, our position is unchanged. South Africa remains open to **lawful migration**, to **foreign direct investment** and to the skills and capital that contribute to its economy. We continue to take on new matters across the full range of South African visa categories:

- Business Visa applications for foreign investors
- Critical Skills Work Visa applications for in-demand professionals
- General Work Visa applications for skilled employees
- Study Visa applications for international students
- Family reunification and Relative's Visa applications
- Permanent residence and naturalisation applications
- Settlement and relocation support for executives and their families

How Machabeng Global Solutions works, and why that matters now

Machabeng Global Solutions is a South African **immigration advisory firm** founded on a single discipline: every visa application we prepare is grounded in the Immigration Act, the regulations promulgated under it and the published directives of the Department of Home Affairs. We do not advise outside that framework, we do not take shortcuts and we do not represent matters that fall outside the law. Our practice covers the full spectrum of **South African immigration services** — from **Business Visa** structuring for **foreign investors** entering the South African economy, to **Critical Skills Work Visa** applications for in-demand professionals, to settlement and relocation support for executives and their families.

That compliance-first approach is what we have always offered. It matters at

every point in our clients' journeys and it matters with particular force at moments like this one, when clear, lawful, well-documented immigration matters most.

Our global client base

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

MGS serves clients globally — foreign nationals from across the world who choose to live, work, study, invest in, or settle in South Africa. The current public discourse does not affect our ability to receive instructions from clients regardless of their country of origin and we continue to take on new matters as before.

If you have questions about your South African immigration matter

We welcome the conversation. If you have specific questions about your visa application, about a prospective move to South Africa, about your existing immigration status, or about the broader environment, please reach out to your usual contact at MGS or write to us at the address below. We will respond directly and where there is something we do not yet know, we will say so.

Thank you for the trust you place in our firm. It is a trust we take seriously and one we work to honour with every immigration matter we handle.

Lebo Zukiswa Mapetla

Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Machabeng Global Solutions (Pty) Ltd

lebo@machabengvisas.com

machabengvisas.com

+27 81 401 4583