

# **EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA WASHINGTON DC**

## **VIRTUAL OUTREACH SESSION 6 FEBRUARY 2026**



**international relations  
& cooperation**

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# BACKGROUND

- DHA service centres abroad through VFS Global are aimed at providing services to South Africans living abroad.
- These centres are an interim measure to bring relief to South Africans living abroad while the department develops the digital solutions to improve access and turnaround times.
- VFS Global services was officially launched in New York by the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr L Schreiber, in October 2025 with the initial phase focusing on passport, identity document, and birth registration applications. These centres are in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Houston, Miami, Los Angeles, and Washington DC.
- Although South African citizens may continue to apply through the Embassy and Consulates available, the introduction of these services centres through VFS Global provides a more accessible footprint.



# CIVIC SERVICES AVAILABLE AT VFS GLOBAL

- **PASSPORTS APPLICATION**

- Child (15 years and below)
- Adult ( Turning 16 years and above)
- Children turning 16 **must** apply for their first identity document to be eligible to apply for new passport
- *Please refer to the requirements/checklist on the website to ensure you bring the required documents when submitting your application.*



# CIVIC SERVICES AVAILABLE AT VFS GLOBAL

- **FIRST IDENTITY DOCUMENT APPLICATION (not re-issue)**
  - Children turning **16** in the current year
  - Children / Adults above 16 who not applied for their first identity document
  - Adult (Children turning 16 **must** apply for their first identity document to be eligible to apply for new passport
  - *Please refer to the requirements/checklist on the website to ensure you bring the required documents when submitting your application.*



# CIVIC SERVICES AVAILABLE AT VFS GLOBAL

- **FOREIGN BIRTH REGISTRATION APPLICATION**

- Children **born** abroad who have not been registered as South African citizens. Those who have not been issued with their **first** South African birth certificates.
- Birth certificate **re-issue** applications through Embassy or Consulates
- *Please refer to the requirements/checklist on the website to ensure you bring the required documents when submitting your application.*



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO NOTE

- VFS services do not include Emergency Travel Certificate (ETC).
- Discontinuation of **mail-in** applications for passport, identity document, birth registration applications. This includes requesting mailing of forms (i.e DHA-9)
- Applications already received will be processed accordingly, as well as those received between now and end February 2026.
- Citizens are encouraged to keep their South Africa passports valid, and apply in advance for new travel documents to be issued by Home Affairs.





**THANK YOU...**



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