

Mobility: Immigration alert

August 2022



Ghana

Ghana launching new e-Visa system for expedited visa application processing

Executive summary

The Ghanaian government has initiated the installation of equipment at its immigration offices and missions to implement a new electronic visa (e-Visa) system and signed an agreement with two private companies for the supply of machine-readable visa stickers. Under the new system, non-Ghanaian citizens will no longer be issued handwritten visa stickers, and processing times for visa applications are expected to reduce.

Key issues

The Ghanaian government is implementing reforms to its visa policy to increase efficiency in visa application processing and enhance national security. One of these reforms is the new e-Visa system, which will introduce a common database of applicants that will be accessible to Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) staff in the country and Ghanaian missions abroad. The e-Visa system will assign a unique identification number to each applicant, and authorized government departments will be able to track the applicant's information instantly using the unique identifier, including their date of entry and expected exit. The biometric information collected and stored in the e-Visa system will assist the Ghanaian authorities in verifying the identity of inbound travelers digitally and flagging instances of immigration non-compliance promptly.

The government has signed an agreement with Orell Füssli Security (OFS) Printing Limited and TGN Digital Security Limited, which have provided security printing and identity management services to various governments, for acquiring the equipment needed to implement the e-Visa system. Existing visa service providers have successfully integrated their systems with that of OFS. The Ghanaian authorities are currently reviewing

other organizations to partner with for full implementation of the new system, including the design and issuance of e-Visas. Before the e-Visa system is implemented, the authorities will conduct trainings for immigration staff to familiarize them with the new system.

The e-Visa system is expected to be launched in some missions (e.g., London, Berlin) on a pilot basis in September 2022. Upon successful trials, it will be rolled out to Ghanaian missions worldwide by the end of this year.

Impact on clients

By creating a centralized database of applicants, Ghana's new e-Visa system will streamline visa application processing and accelerate the visa acquisition process for applicants. This is expected to reduce the time required for individuals, including business travelers, to enter the country.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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