



DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP SERVICES



PRESS RELEASE

OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE NEW VISA REGIME OF 2024

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services wishes to notify all stakeholders that the operationalization of the free entry visa requirements to holders of passports from the countries that have recently been published in the gazette is in full swing. As such, all nationalities that appear on the list of countries that are not subjected to visa requirements will continue to enter and re-enter Malawi without paying any visa fees as per the gazette.

However, it is important to note that visa arrangements are a national security requirement subjected to travelers for state security agencies to clear such traveler using a robust and integrated international security clearance database. It is as well imperative to understand that holding a valid visa does not exempt a holder to other entry formalities, as entry into Malawi is strictly upon the approval of an Immigration Officer at the port of entry, subject to fulfilling all necessary requirements.

The Department would therefore like to inform all stakeholders that holders of passports from countries that subject holders of a Malawi passport to visa requirements will be required to apply for an entry authorization, prior to travelling to Malawi or upon arrival at any port of entry, in line with the new visa regime and the Malawi Gazette Supplement No. 3A of February 7, 2024, on Immigration (Amendment) Regulations. This arrangement is line with the pillars of national security that demands thorough screening of all foreign nationals entering Malawi.

The application arrangement for the entry authorization is required to be submitted through the Malawi Visa online portal on www.evisa.gov.mw at NO cost. Holders of applicable residential permits in Malawi issued by the Department of Immigration and Citizenships will be exempted from this arrangement.

All travelers to Malawi falling in this category are urged to follow this arrangement to save inconveniences the visa free arrangement might cause. The Department would like to emphasize that this arrangement should NOT be mistaken as an application for entry visa into Malawi but as a national security screening requirement, as visas remain free for the specified nationalities.

Travelers to Malawi are required to understand that in Malawi, a visa is an endorsement or entry in a valid passport or other travel document by an Immigration Officer or any official of the Government authorized to do so, indicating that the bearer has been granted permission to enter or re-enter Malawi; and serves only for the purpose of entry rather than stay. The validity of the visa is not the period in which the holder is entitled to remain in the country but a period within which the holder has to enter Malawi. As such, foreign nationals are required to use other instruments offered by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services to remain in the country legally.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'CDE Kalumo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brig. Gen. ~~C.D.E~~ Kalumo (rtd)

DIRECTOR GENERAL

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22nd February, 2024