



BEWILDERING ... Port Harcourt is hardly recognisable under the cloud of thick soot and smog which has covered it since November 2016. The smog has led the federal government to declare an emergency in Port Harcourt, while some local factories have been closed. The cause of the smog is not clear, but some have blamed illegal oil refineries or the practice of burning tyres.

Nampa-AFP

For instance, on average, Africans need visas to travel to 55% of other African countries. They can get visas on arrival in only 25% of other countries. Finally, they do not need a visa to travel to just 20% of other countries on the continent.



SA 'working on scrapping visa for all African citizens'

JOHANNESBURG – South Africa is working towards allowing all African citizens to enter the country without visas – but at first “trusted travellers” like diplomats, officials, academics, business people and students will be the only ones to benefit.

The department of home affairs outlines the steps that will be taken towards scrapping visa requirements in its latest White Paper on International Migration, which was adopted by cabinet six weeks ago, but not made public yet.

The African Union’s Agenda 2063, championed by former AU Commission chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, calls for the scrapping of visa requirements for all African citizens travelling on the continent by 2018, based on the views of the African Renaissance.

The African passport was launched with great ceremony by Dlamini-Zuma and Rwandan president Paul Kagame at last year’s AU summit in Kigali.

According to the white paper, South Africa “fully supports the vision of an Africa where its citizens can move more freely across national borders, where intra-Africa trade is encouraged, and there is greater integration and development of the African continent”.

It said the current status was untenable. “For instance, on average, Africans need visas to travel to 55% of other African countries. They can get visas on arrival in only 25% of other countries. Finally, they do not need a visa to travel to just 20% of other countries on the continent.”

But the white paper, which moves South Africa’s approach to immigration from a purely administrative one to a security-based approach, warns that the scrapping of visas needs to happen with caution.

South Africa’s risk-based approach “advocates an incremental removal of migration formalities for frequent and trusted travellers, including diplomats, officials, academics, business persons, students, etc.”

The policy is envisaged as follows: African citizens can enter South Africa visa-free, where there are reciprocal agreements.

Visas will only be needed when there are risks of foreign nationals overstaying, security risks like organised crime, terrorism and political instability, civil registration risks, i.e. fraud by foreign governments in issuing documents, or an inability or unwillingness to identify their nationals when requested, and for countries “with a high number of nationals who abuse the asylum system”.

One of the countries identified elsewhere in the document as doing such is Zimbabwe.

– Scoopnest.com

in 2015, government figures showed.

“Fish are being used to feed animals, yet we need fish to survive,” said Abdou Karim Sall, the head of a fishermen’s association in Joal, representing about 3 000 boats. Following pressure from local fishermen, in recent years, Senegal has stopped licensing the fishing of small pelagic fish to foreign industrial trawlers. But vessels continue to operate from neighbouring countries, like Mauritania, Belhabib said.

And trawlers of Asian, European and Western African origin often carry out illegal incursions into waters reserved for locals, or flout fishing regulations, experts say.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing costs West African economies US\$2.3 billion a year, according to a recent study published in the *Frontiers in Marine Science* journal.

To compete with foreign trawlers, Senegalese fishermen have started building more and bigger boats to venture further into the ocean, but catches continue to drop, said Sall. In 2016, fish catches in Joal dropped by 40% to 90 000 tonnes from 150 000 tonnes the previous year, and the tally is set to decrease even further this year, he said.

“We’ve increased the size of boats and nets, but we catch less fish,” Sall said, adding that fish prices at local markets had consequently gone up. – Thomson Reuters Foundation



African Briefs



Mutinuous troops defy Ivory Coast order

BOUAKÉ – Mutinous soldiers have opened fire in Ivory Coast’s two biggest cities, defying a government order to lay down their weapons. The mutineers blocked roads outside barracks in an affluent neighbourhood of Abidjan, the commercial capital. Pro-government forces are heading for the second city, Bouaké, where shooting has erupted for a fifth day in a row. The mutineers, who helped the president take office in 2011, have been locked in a pay dispute with the government. Armed forces’ chief of staff general Sékou Touré has vowed to end the mutiny. In a statement on Sunday, general Touré said many of the mutinous soldiers had listened to earlier calls for them to stand down. But an operation to end a mutiny had been launched because some soldiers were continuing to disobey orders, he added. The mutineers have vowed to fight back, if loyalist troops intervene.

Family sources say Mugabe’s health ‘worsening’

HARARE – Is president Robert Mugabe really ailing – or is he in no worse health than he was before? Sources close to the first family have reportedly told the *Zimbabwe*

Independent weekly newspaper that the 93-year-old president now has “worsening health problems”, and his wife Grace is getting worried. “Grace is in a quandary; she has to deal with Mugabe’s health challenges and political issues as well... she is scared of a future without him,” an unnamed official told the paper. Mugabe was in Singapore last week for another medical check-up. *Zimbabwe Independent* quoted a senior government official who claims to be close to Mugabe’s family as saying that the longtime Zimbabwe leader has had a “noticeable decline in his cognitive abilities”. The paper claimed Mugabe’s ill-health was now at a “crisis point”. But there have been numerous exaggerated reports on the president’s health in recent times.

US\$1.4b needed to help S Sudanese refugees this year

GENEVA – The United Nations said yesterday that US\$1.4 billion was needed this year alone to help the nearly two million people who have fled war and famine in South Sudan. The UNHCR refugee agency and the World Food Programme presented an updated response plan to the crisis in appealing for nearly double the US\$781 million they had previously said they needed. “Bitter conflict and deteriorating humanitarian conditions in South Sudan are driving people from their homes in record numbers,” UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi said in a statement. – Nampa-AFP-BBCNews-Zimbabwe Independent

VACANCY



WINDHOEK

Office of the PVC- RID: Centre for Innovation
Researcher (x2)

TWO (2) YEAR CONTRACT

Scope and dimension: The University of Namibia has officially began its collaboration with the INM (Leibniz Institute for New Materials based in Saarbrücken, Germany). The aim of the joint project, *NaMiComp*, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, is to analyse Namibia’s locally available natural resources and then use them as a basis for new materials for industrial applications.

Duties and Responsibilities: The incumbent will be required to perform research duties; manage the research project in line with agreed project management principles; meet set targets in research and innovation outputs; budget control; participate in community services; identify possible funding opportunities for the project and perform any other duties as required. Candidates will be expected to travel between Windhoek Main Campus and Southern Campus (Keetmanshoop).

Qualifications: A Postgraduate Degree/Master of Science or an equivalent qualification preferably specialising in Chemistry, Biochemistry or Geosciences with relevant research and publications experience.

DATE OF ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES: As soon as possible. **CLOSING DATE:** 26 May 2017. **APPLICATION PROCEDURES:** Prospective candidates should forward their completed CV and certified copies of all qualifications to: The Assistant Director - HR Services, University of Namibia, Private Bag 13301, Windhoek, Namibia, e-mail: recruitment@unam.na **BENEFITS:** UNAM, as an equal opportunity employer, offers competitive remuneration including all benefits associated with an institute of higher learning. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NB. Only Short listed candidates will be contacted and no personal documents will be returned. The advert has minimum requirements listed. Management reserves the right to set additional information as criteria for shortlisting and requirements are subject to change. Reference checks will be done on all shortlisted candidates. All foreign qualifications must be evaluated by NQA. Please visit our website at: www.unam.edu.na for more information on job descriptions.