

SOUTH AFRICA



Assessing the effectiveness of South Africa's Zimbabwean Dispensation policy

This infographic highlights key findings and policy recommendations for improving South Africa's Zimbabwean Dispensation Policy, aimed at addressing migration challenges and enhancing refugee protection.



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Key Findings

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

The strict separation of economic migrants and refugees does not reflect the complex nature of Zimbabwean migration to South Africa. A more comprehensive approach is needed to ensure appropriate protection for all migrants.



UNEVIDENCED POLICY

The government's assumption that Zimbabweans are primarily economic migrants has never been supported by concrete evidence. The adoption of the DZP policy is not evidence-based.



LACK OF DURABLE SOLUTIONS

The dispensation system, although providing temporary relief, fails to offer long-term security or pathways to permanent residence or naturalization. This has created instability for many Zimbabweans, who have lived in South Africa for over a decade.



NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF DISCONTINUATION

Ending the dispensation without an alternative will likely lead to widespread deportation, and fractured families. The policy has created a system of uncertainty and potential legal vulnerabilities for Zimbabwean migrants.



Policy Recommendations

SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) VISA

Introduce a SADC visa to promote the free movement of labor within the Southern African region, as South Africa has obligations under regional treaties to facilitate economic and social integration.



RATIONAL END TO TEMPORARY PERMITS

Implement a non-renewable permit for a finite period, with built-in mechanisms to avoid long-term temporary statuses and legal uncertainties.



STRENGTHEN THE ASYLUM SYSTEM

Invest in and improve the capacity of South Africa's asylum system to handle large-scale refugee influxes more efficiently, ensuring timely and fair asylum determinations.



NON-DISCRIMINATION

Create a pathway to permanent residence for individuals who have held temporary permits for extended periods, ensuring their rights align with those of other long-term residents.

