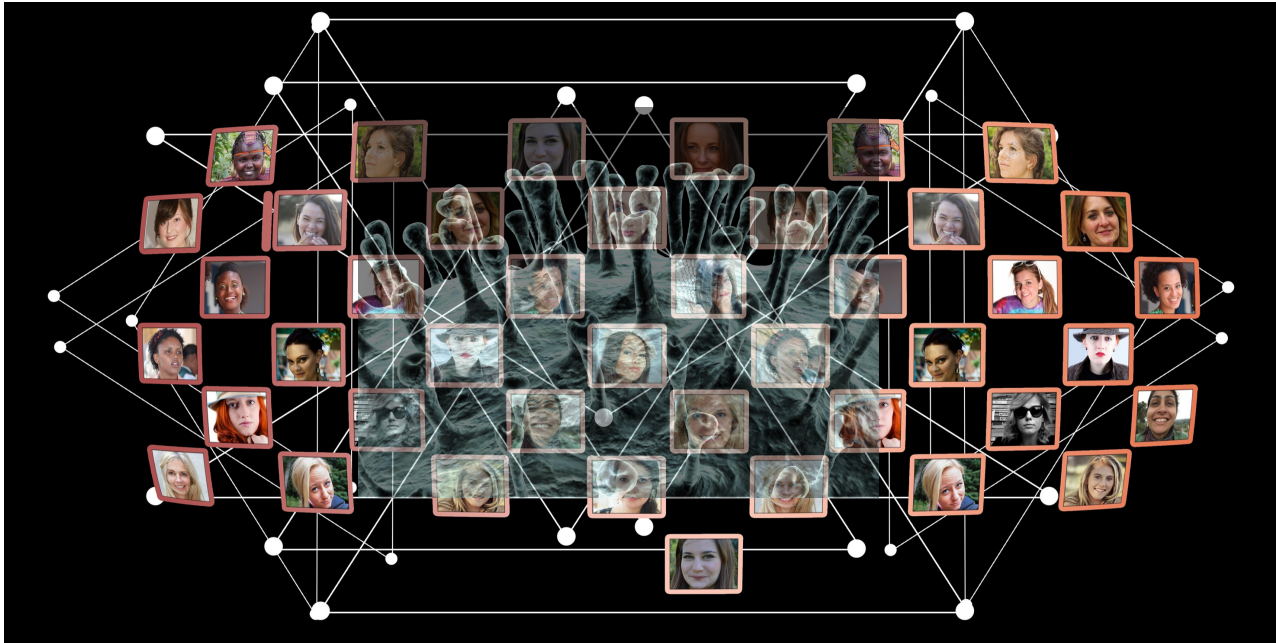


JEE REGULATORY UPDATE



IMMIGRATION

MARCH 31, 2020

14 DAY LOCK DOWN IN NIGERIA

The Federal Government of Nigeria has recently ordered the cessation of all forms of movements in Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) for an initial period of 14 days effective 11 p.m. on Monday, 30th March 2020. In line with this directive, all Government Agencies and Registries including the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) will be closed to the public with minimal services available during this period.

In light of the foregoing, all pending applications are automatically suspended until the restrictions are lifted.

IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

The lockdown has a consequential impact on the compliance requirements of employers with expatriate employees considering that a significant number of expatriates have also been stranded in Nigeria because of the COVID-19 pandemic and parallel global entry restrictions by several other countries to contain the spread of the virus. Some expatriates will no doubt see their work and residence permits expire during the period of restrictions.

IMPACT ON TRAVEL

Earlier in March 2020, the Nigerian Government had directed that Nigeria's borders – air, land and sea points of entry be completely closed to all forms of international travels for a period of one month from midnight on **Monday 23rd March to April 23rd 2020**. Consequently, the NIS suspended critical services including temporary closure of passport processing issuance and e-migrant registration centres.

Nonetheless, persons who fall into the following categories and who possess appropriate approvals from the NIS, Ministries of Interior and Aviation may still be permitted to travel to Nigeria:

- Essential services personnel
- Military and National security personnel
- Diplomats
- Medical Emergencies and Humanitarians workers

POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The information available at this time suggests that the NIS is aware that quite a huge number of expatriates are stranded in Nigeria and would not be able to file for the renewals of their permits during current restrictions. While this situation is not peculiar to Nigeria, Immigration authorities in other countries have proactively provided official directions to stranded expatriates who may have their work and residence permits expire during the lockdown. For instance, in some countries, expatriates whose permits will expire during a lockdown must ensure to file their renewal applications within 14 days of the lockdown being lifted. In the case of Nigeria, it is anticipated that the NIS response will follow the example of the Immigration authorities of other countries. The NIS official response is now expected anytime soon on or before the lifting of the government lockdown.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION FLIGHTS

The United States and some other countries like Germany and Israel have announced plans to evacuate their citizens who are stranded in Nigeria. It is expected that emergency evacuation flights will be allowed to land and evacuate foreigners who in that situation Nigeria.

JEE RESPONSE

We remain vigilant and keeping a close eye on developments in readiness to take prompt and proactive action as may be necessary. We will, of course, provide continuous updates as they unfold. If you have any specific concerns about your expatriate workforce, please, contact the undersigned.



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