



# Immigration Regulatory Updates

July 2025

This edition highlights key immigration policy changes affecting Nigerian travellers, including Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) exemptions (excluding Nigeria), the United States' new single-entry visa rule and visa integrity fee, and renewed UAE visa restrictions. These developments reflect growing global focus on security, migration control, and diplomatic shifts, with implications for individuals, businesses, and mobility stakeholders.

## **NIS Announces Amnesty Window for Visa Overstayers to Regularise Immigration Status**

On 5 July 2025, the Nigeria Immigration Service (the "NIS"), under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Interior, announced the launch of an Expired Visa Amnesty Initiative. This initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance compliance with the New Visa Regime and to reinforce a secure and transparent migration system in Nigeria.

The Amnesty Initiative provides foreign nationals currently residing in Nigeria with expired immigration status an opportunity to regularise their stay without facing penalties. It commenced on 1 May 2025. Initially, the Federal Government had announced a general three-month grace period (1 May – 1 August 2025) for expatriates to regularise their immigration documentation under the new Expatriate Administration System (EAS). However, this Expired Visa Amnesty Initiative specifically extends the window until 30 September 2025 for a specialised category of foreign nationals, those who have overstayed their visas or violated visa conditions.

This was discussed in detail in our update [here](#).

## **Nigeria Immigration Service Transitions to Fully Digital CERPAC Process from August 1**

On 16 July 2025, the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) announced the launch of a new digital platform for processing the Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Aliens Card (CERPAC).



With effect from 1 August 2025, all CERPAC applications shall be submitted exclusively through the newly introduced online platform, the use of physical CERPAC forms will be discontinued after 31 July 2025.

This was discussed in detail in our update [here](#).

## **Kenya Lifts eTA Requirement for Most African Countries – Effective 1 July 2025**

In January 2025, the Kenyan government announced its intention to waive the Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) requirement for visitors from most African countries. This policy took effect on 1 July 2025, with Kenya significantly revising its electronic travel authorisation system by exempting over 50 (Fifty) countries, most of which are African, from the eTA requirement.

West African countries that made the exemption list include Gambia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone. Nigeria, however, was not included in the initial list. The Kenyan authorities have stated that the list is subject to ongoing changes, modifications, and updates.

Libya and Somalia remain excluded from the visa waiver programme due to continued security concerns, as cited by the Kenyan government.

Under the new framework, nationals of African countries can now stay in Kenya for up to two months, while citizens of East African Community (EAC) member states continue to enjoy an extended stay of up to six months, in line with regional free movement agreements that have been fundamental to East African integration.

## **United States Revises Visa Policy for Nigerian Citizens – Effective 8 July 2025**

On 8 July 2025, the United States Department of State introduced major changes to its reciprocal non-immigrant visa policy, as announced by the U.S. Mission in Nigeria.

Effective immediately, most non-immigrant and non-diplomatic visas issued to Nigerian citizens will now be single-entry visas valid for three months. Visas issued prior to 8 July 2025 will retain their original validity and multiple-entry status.

Key aspects of the revised visa policy include:

- **Secure Travel Documentation:** The new policy emphasises the need for issuing secure passports with verified traveller identities to ensure international travel integrity.

- **Visa Overstay Management:** The U.S. government will partner with Nigerian authorities to implement monitoring systems aimed at reducing visa overstays and enhancing immigration compliance.



- **Information Sharing:** The policy calls for greater inter-governmental cooperation, particularly in the exchange of security and criminal information to improve decision-making on visa issuance.

Other countries affected by this policy update include Ghana, Cameroon, and Ethiopia. Nigerian travellers to the U.S. should prepare for stricter entry rules and documentation requirements.

## **UAE Imposes New Visa Restrictions on Nigerian Citizens**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has imposed new entry restrictions on Nigerian travellers, including:

- A ban on transit visa applications for Nigerians.
- Tourist visa limitations: Nigerians between ages 18 and 45 are now prohibited from obtaining tourist visas unless accompanied.
- For applicants aged 45 and above, a six-month personal bank statement is now mandatory. The statement must show a minimum monthly balance of \$10,000 or its naira equivalent.

These measures are expected to significantly reduce travel from Nigeria to Dubai, a popular destination for both business and leisure.

## **"One Big Beautiful Bill Act" Introduces U.S. Visa Integrity Fee**

On 4 July 2025, the President of the United States signed the "One Big Beautiful Bill" into law. Among the key provisions is the introduction of a "Visa Integrity Fee".

Key highlights include:

- The fee applies to all visitors requiring non-immigrant visas, including:

Tourists and business visitors (B-1/B-2)

Students (F/M)

Work permit holders (H-1B/H-4)

Exchange visitors (J)

- The base fee is set at \$250 for fiscal year 2025, with the Secretary of Homeland Security empowered to increase it.

- Applicants from non-waiver countries, such as Nigeria, must pay the Visa Integrity Fee in addition to existing visa application fees.



Should you require further assistance or clarification on the above, please feel free to contact [pamilerin.akabunwa@famsvillelaw.com](mailto:pamilerin.akabunwa@famsvillelaw.com)

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