

**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
ON WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENTS  
FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS**

**PREAMBLE**

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties" and in the singular as a "Party"),

**DESIRING** to strengthen the existing bond of friendship and bilateral cooperation between the Parties; and

**ENDEAVOURING** to simplify and facilitate the travelling of holders of valid diplomatic or official passports between the respective countries.

**HEREBY AGREE** as follows:

**Article 1  
WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENTS**

The holder of a valid diplomatic or official passport of a Party may enter into, exit from and transit through the territory of the other Party and shall be permitted to stay in the territory of that Party for a maximum period of ninety (90) days from the date of entry without having to obtain a visa.

**Article 2  
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES**

The Competent Authorities responsible for the implementation of this Agreement shall be:

(a) in respect of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security; and

(b) in respect of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Department of Home Affairs.

**Article 3**  
**ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR STAFF**

(1) The holders of valid diplomatic or official passports, who are accredited members of the staff of the Diplomatic Mission or Consular Posts in the country of the receiving Party, may freely enter, sojourn and exit the said country during the time of their appointment at that Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post.

(2) The family members of persons contemplated in sub-Article (1) shall also be exempt from having to obtain a visa if they are holders of valid diplomatic or official passports.

**Article 4**  
**ENTRY INTO AND EXIT FROM TERRITORIES OF PARTIES**

The holders of valid diplomatic or official passports of the country of one Party shall enter the territory of the other Party through the points of entry designated for international traffic.

**Article 5**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The provisions of this Agreement shall not exempt the holders of valid diplomatic or official passports from complying with the domestic legislation relating to the entry into, sojourning in or exiting from the territory of the other Party.

**Article 6**  
**NOTIFICATION OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS**

(1) The Parties shall exchange specimens of their diplomatic and official passports, as well as information on the rules of their use, through the diplomatic channel, not later than thirty (30) days before the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

(2) Each Party shall also transmit to the other Party, through the diplomatic channel, specimens of new or amended diplomatic or official



passports at least thirty (30) days before the introduction of the new or amended diplomatic or official passport.

(3) The Parties shall also inform each other in writing through the diplomatic channel of any changes in respect of the rules for the use of diplomatic or official passports at least thirty (30) days before the introduction of the changes.

#### **Article 7**

### **REFUSAL OF ENTRY AND ISSUANCE OF NEW PASSPORT**

(1) Each Party reserves the right to, on a discretionary basis, refuse entry into their country of any holder of a diplomatic or official passport of the country of the other Party.

(2) If the holder of a valid diplomatic or official passport loses his or her diplomatic or official passport in the territory of the country of the other Party, he or she shall inform the competent authorities of the host country for appropriate action. The Diplomatic Mission or Consular Posts concerned shall issue a new diplomatic or official passport or travel document to the person and also inform the competent authorities of the other Party about the issuance of the new passport or travel document.

#### **Article 8**

### **SUSPENSION**

(1) Each Party reserves the right to completely or partially suspend this Agreement for reasons of public order, national security or public health.

(2) Such suspension, as well as the reasons therefor, shall be conveyed to the other Party in writing through the diplomatic channel and shall take effect immediately after receipt of such written notification by the other Party to whom it has been conveyed.

(3) The suspending Party shall lift the suspension as soon as possible by way of written notice to the other Party through the diplomatic channel.

#### **Article 9**

### **SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

Any dispute between the Parties arising out of the interpretation, implementation or application of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Parties.

**Article 10  
AMENDMENT**

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties through an Exchange of Notes between the Parties through the diplomatic channel.

**Article 11  
ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION**

(1) This Agreement shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the date of signature thereof.

(2) This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period, but may be terminated by either Party by giving six (6) months written notice in advance through the diplomatic channel to the other Party of its intention to do so.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed and sealed this Agreement in two originals, in the English and Vietnamese languages, all the texts being equally authentic.

DONE at Hanoi on this 24th day of May 2007.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



*Tu Dung*  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



*Nkomo*  
Dlamini Zuma  
Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs