



# GMS Flash Alert

## Immigration Edition

2020-117 | March 26, 2020

# Botswana - Broad Measures Introduced by Government to Combat COVID-19 Threat

As part of its response to the coronavirus threat, the Botswana government has announced broad measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).<sup>1</sup> These measures include barring of entry into Botswana of travelers from the following high-risk countries: the People's Republic of China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and India.

Botswana citizens and residents returning from the affected countries will be subjected to mandatory quarantine for 14 days.

---

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Botswana, like many other countries, is limiting cross-border travel into the country with significant impact for the mobility of a company's international workforce. The prohibition on entry into the country from individuals coming from high-risk countries and other travel, entry-exit, and visa handling measures that have been announced will impact companies with assignee populations in terms of existing and future assignments inbound to Botswana or outbound from Botswana. Employees and their families who may have received offers for an international assignment to Botswana may need to postpone the commencement of the assignment. This could cause some anxiety, stress, and inconvenience, especially where plans for relocation are already underway.

The changes wrought in travel and daily life in light of recent government measures, may mean delays, more administration, and a considerable amount of inconvenience for some companies, their affected employees, and the Botswana population, generally speaking, though it is in the interest of protecting public health and safety.

## Broad Range of Measures and Effects of Health Crisis

Additional measures taken by the government to combat the spread of the virus include the following:

- suspension, with immediate effect, until further notice, of the issuance of visas at all embassies and ports of entry;
- cancellation of current visas issued to any person from high-risk countries;
- suspension of all international travel by employees of government, parastatals, and state-owned entities;
- cancellation of all government, state-owned entities, and parastatals international meetings and conferences;
- 30-day suspension, with immediate effect, of public gatherings of more than 100 people for conferences, sporting events, etc.

To help minimise the risk of contracting and spreading of the virus, citizens and residents of Botswana are to postpone travel to affected countries.

---

### KPMG NOTE

These new travel restrictions will have considerable impact on travelers to Botswana including globally-mobile employees and their families.

Affected employers need to be aware of and keep abreast of these and any future changes in immigration rules in order to put in place policies that help manage or mitigate the associated work and employee welfare risks.

---

### FOOTNOTE:

1 For President Masisi's recent press conference on COVID-19 measures, you may visit the Facebook site for the president at: <https://www.facebook.com/BotswanaGovernment/posts/2832225860193387> .

You may also view the 16 March 2020 Public Notice on COVID-19 issued by the government at: <https://www.gov.bw/sites/default/files/2020-03/Covid19.pdf> .

For some basic information on measures taken by the Botswana government to combat COVID-19 and some joint U.S.-Botswana efforts related to the COVID-19 crisis, see this webpage of the U.S. Embassy in Botswana: <https://bw.usembassy.gov/health-alert-u-s-embassy-gaborone-botswana/https://pl.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/> .

\* \* \* \*

## Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional\* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Botswana:



**Olivia Muzvidziwa**  
**Associate Director**  
Tel. + 267 77 199 022  
[Olivia.Muzvidziwa@kpmg.bw](mailto:Olivia.Muzvidziwa@kpmg.bw)



**Leonard Muza**  
**Senior Manager**  
Tel. + 267 77 199 067  
[Leonard.Muza@kpmg.bw](mailto:Leonard.Muza@kpmg.bw)

\* Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not offer immigration services or labour law services. However, KPMG Law LLP in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.

**The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Botswana.**

© 2020 KPMG Chartered Accountants, Botswana, a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

[www.kpmg.com](http://www.kpmg.com)

[kpmg.com/socialmedia](http://kpmg.com/socialmedia)



© 2020 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and the U.S. member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. NDPPS 530159

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.

The KPMG logo and name are trademarks of KPMG International. KPMG International is a Swiss cooperative that serves as a coordinating entity for a network of independent member firms. KPMG International provides no audit or other client services. Such services are provided solely by member firms in their respective geographic areas. KPMG International and its member firms are legally distinct and separate entities. They are not and nothing contained herein shall be construed to place these entities in the relationship of parents, subsidiaries, agents, partners, or joint ventures. No member firm has any authority (actual, apparent, implied or otherwise) to obligate or bind KPMG International or any member firm in any manner whatsoever. The information contained in herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.

Flash Alert is a GMS publication of KPMG LLP's Washington National Tax practice. To view this publication or recent prior issues online, please click [here](#). To learn more about our GMS practice, please visit us on the Internet: click [here](#) or go to <http://www.kpmg.com>.