

GMS Flash Alert



Immigration Edition

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Nigeria - COVID-19: Key Airports to Re-Open 5 September 2020

On August 27, 2020, the Nigerian government announced the postponement of the resumption of international commercial flights at the Lagos and Abuja airports to 5 September 2020.¹ This is subsequent to the initial announcement made by the government on 17 August 2020, on its plans to resume such operations starting 29 August 2020.

According to the government, the postponement is necessitated by the need to resolve some pending matters prior to the resumption of commercial flights to Nigeria.²

WHY THIS MATTERS

The resumption of commercial international flights in Nigeria should enable global mobility managers to effectively plan the itineraries of new and returning assignees. Many businesses require expatriate personnel to carry out key projects ranging from machinery installation and repair, training, rig repair, contract negotiation, and the general operation of the business. Hence, with the opening of these airports in a matter of days, businesses that rely upon sending / bringing in foreign employees to Nigeria should be able to resume suspended projects and commence related activities, in particular those for which local expertise is either unavailable or scarce.

More Details

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), airlines, and other aviation agencies will specify the relevant protocols for the resumption of commercial operations at the international airports. These may include requirements for passengers arriving at least three hours at the airports before scheduled departure time for their flights. Passengers may also be required to present test certificates for COVID-19 obtained within seven days before the flight and proceed on a 14-day quarantine after arrival in Nigeria.

Flights at Nigeria's five international airports had been shut down by the government on 24 March as a response measure to the outbreak of coronavirus.

KPMG NOTE

The government's proposed plan for resumption of international flights to Nigeria may present new requirements such as obtaining COVID-19 certificates for acquiring visas both upon arrival and at Nigerian foreign diplomatic missions.

Also, travellers could spend longer hours at the airport upon arrival due to the additional controls put in place by the authorities. However, the government is expected to continue to innovate in respect of the use of technology to enhance arrival procedures without compromising required public health standards.

Lastly, global mobility personnel in the country may proactively arrange with government-approved laboratories for incoming assignees to undergo COVID-19 testing as required.

FOOTNOTES:

1 This development was announced in a press briefing of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 in Abuja, with remarks by Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) Director General, Capt. Musa Nuh, as reported in "Nigeria: Govt Shifts Resumption of International Flights to September 5," in *AllAfrica.com* at: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202008280097.html>. (*Note that this is a 3rd party (non-governmental, non-KPMG) website. Providing this link does not represent an endorsement of this website by KPMG.*)

2 Ibid.

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