MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS STATEMENT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation would like to address concerns from members of the public regarding the possibility of workers and students returning to the Republic of South Africa to resume employment and studies following the ease of the national lockdown to Level 4 and Level 3.

Pursuant to Government’s commitment to assist all Emaswati affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Ministry has continuously engaged the South African Government through the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) on the aforementioned matter, having noted the re-opening of some industries, in particular the resumption of mining, manufacturing and other low risk industries which employ a significant number of Emaswati. The Ministry sought guidance on the procedure to be used by returning legal migrants and students given that the prevailing restrictions on cross border travel are still in place.

The Ministry, on 21st May 2020, received feedback from the Intergovernmental and Provincial Protocol Department under DIRCO which reads thus: “The current directives do not allow for foreign workers to return to South Africa. This also applies to foreign students unless they are final year medical students.”

The Ministry wishes to assure that it continues to engage the Government of the Republic of South Africa on all matters of interest to Emaswati and reiterates that any changes on the obtaining state of affairs will be communicated to the public timeously.

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