

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA PROPOSES UPDATED VISA POLICY: NVP 2025

### Summary

The Federal Ministry of Interior (“FMI” or the “Ministry”) has proposed the Nigerian Visa Policy 2025 (“NVP 2025”), which seeks to revise the existing Nigerian Visa Policy 2020 (“NVP 2020”). This proposed policy introduces key changes, particularly a streamlined focus on the electronic visa (“E-visa”) channel, revised visa categories, additional requirement for the visa applications and changes in visa validity periods. The aim of the proposed revisions is to enhance the efficiency of visa processing and align Nigeria’s immigration framework with global best practices.

### Background

The NVP 2020 was introduced on January 4, 2020, by former President Muhammadu Buhari to attract skilled professionals and promote ease of travel into Nigeria. The policy expanded the visa categories from six (6) to seventy-nine (79) and introduced E-visa as an additional application channel. The NVP 2020 marked a paradigm shift for the immigration sector in Nigeria, because of the new visa classes which included provisions for short visit visas, temporary residence visas, and permanent residence visas.

The proposed NVP 2025 seeks to further modernize the Nigerian immigration system by prioritizing the E-visa channel, particularly for short visit visa categories. It also aims to establish an online service platform for E-visa applications and define the recognized E-visa classes.

With the introduction of NVP 2025, it is expected that there will be increased implementation of the E-visa process for short visit visas in Nigeria, thereby promoting diplomatic relations and investment opportunities in Nigeria.

### Key Changes in the Proposed NVP 2025

Some of the changes proposed by NVP 2025 are as follows:

#### 1. E-visa Focus

Unlike NVP 2020 included multiple visa application channels including the embassy, visa application centers, and visa on arrival, whereas the NVP 2025 focuses solely on the E-visa channel. Additionally, the number of short visit visa categories under the E-visa system were adjusted, with some visa types removed from the category and new ones introduced.

#### 2. Adjustments to Visa Categories

The NVP 2025 introduces changes to the short visit visa categories under the E-visa channel, increasing the total number from seventeen (17) to eighteen (18). Under this revision, the Journalist Visa (F7A), Tourism Visa (F7C), and Religious Tourism Visa (F7D) visas have been removed, while four (4) new visa categories, the Diplomatic Visa (Non-Accredited) (F2A), Business – Multiple Entry Visa (F4B), Visiting Visa – Single Entry (F6A), and Temporary Work Permit Visa (F8A), have been included as available via the e-visa channel.

#### 3. Issuance Validity

Under the NVP 2020, there is a requirement that the E-visas must be used within fourteen (14) days of issuance was revised under the NVP 2025. The new policy proposes that E-visas must be used within thirty (30) days of issuance, thereby extending the time allowed for e-visa holders to utilize their visas.

#### 4. Visa Validity and Duration Adjustments

The NVP 2025 introduces several changes to visa validity periods, with many categories seeing a reduction in duration. Notably, the Diplomatic Visa (Non-accredited) (F2A) visa now has a validity period and maximum stay reduced from ninety (90) days to thirty (30) days. Similarly, most short-visit visas under the E-visa channel have undergone adjustments, with many experiencing a shortened validity period and maximum duration.



A key distinction in NVP 2025 is its shift away from the uniform timeframes established in NVP 2020. While NVP 2020 maintained consistency by applying the same duration across validity, stay period, and maximum duration, the new policy introduces variations. For example, under NVP 2025, the Temporary Work Permit Visa (F8A) visa now has a validity period of ninety (90) days and a permitted stay of ninety (90) days, but a maximum duration of just thirty (30) days. In contrast, NVP 2020 applied a uniform ninety (90) days across all three parameters.

## 5. Provisions for Minors and Dependents

Under the NVP 2020, there is no explicit provision outlining the requirements for family members of a visa applicant. However, the NVP 2025 proposes a clear requirement that, in family applications, family members must provide the same documentation as the primary applicant, where relevant.

Additionally, the NVP 2025 includes specific provisions for minors applying for visas, distinguishing between unaccompanied and accompanied applicants, with tailored requirements for each scenario.

For minors applying as unaccompanied individuals, the required documents include:

- Birth certificate
- Parental or legal guardian's passport data page
- Parental or legal guardian's letter of consent

For minors applying as accompanied individuals, the requirements are:

- Birth certificate
- Letter of consent from the parent or legal guardian authorizing the accompanying guardian

These requirements are in addition to the standard documentation required for the primary visa applicant.

## 6. Additional Documentation Requirements

Certain visa categories now require additional documentation;

- The F3B Transit Visa - the requirement under the NVP 2020 was only the onward ticket to the next destination. However, the NVP 2025 proposes additional requirements such as a thirty (30) days bank statement showing evidence of sufficient funds, visa to final destination and evidence of hotel reservations.
- The F4B Business Multiple Entry Visa - it has been proposed that the requirement for sufficient funds as provided under the NVP 2020 be removed. New requirements such as Incorporation certificate of inviting company and invitation letter from the inviting company which were not explicitly stated in the NVP 2020 were clearly stipulated in the NVP 2025. Thereby, ensuring that the proposed policy provides an extensive list of requirements.
- The F4C Business Frequently Travelled Executives Visa - a letter of verification or confirmation of investment from the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission is introduced as an additionally requirement for this visa category.

## 7. New Visa Fee Structure

The NVP 2025 proposes new visa fees for different visa categories. Notably, the fee for the Temporary work permit visa (single entry) (F8A), the proposed fee is Six Hundred United States Dollars (US\$600.00) while the Temporary Work Permit (Multiple Entry) (R11) is pegged at One Thousand, One Hundred United States Dollars (US\$1,100.00), applicable to all eligible countries.

The revised structure also includes updated fees for other visa categories, such as the Tourist Single-Entry Visa, Tourist Multiple-Entry Visa, and Business Single-Entry Visa, reflecting a general upward adjustment in visa fees.

## 8. Overstay Penalties

The NVP 2025 proposes for the restructuring of the overstay penalties, with a Fifteen United States Dollars (US\$15.00) daily fine for overstaying. An overstay from three (3) months to one (1) year results in a one (1) year ban, while an overstay beyond one (1) year leads to a three (3) year ban.

Comparatively, the current penalty structure for overstays, which were outlined in a policy introduced by the Federal Ministry of Interior in 2015. by is Two Hundred United States Dollars (US\$200.00) for fifty-seven (57) to ninety (90) days, One Thousand United States Dollars (US\$1,000.00) for an overstay of ninety-one (91) to one hundred and eighty (180) days, and Two Thousand United States Dollars (US\$2,000.00) for an overstay of one hundred and eighty-one (181) days to three hundred and sixty-five (365) days.



## 9. Eligible and Ineligible Countries

The Nigerian Visa Policy 2025 (“**NVP 2025**”) introduces a comprehensive list of countries eligible for the E-visa system. A total of **One Hundred and Seventy-Seven (177) countries** are eligible to apply for E-visas, thereby benefiting from the streamlined and efficient electronic visa application process.

Conversely, **twenty-five (25)**<sup>1</sup> have been classified as ineligible for the E-visa option. Applicants from these countries will be required to follow the traditional visa application process through Nigerian embassies or consular offices.

### Conclusion

The NVP 2025 is a welcome development in Nigeria's immigration system as it offers commendable enhancements to Nigeria's visa system such as extending the E-visa validity period, introducing stricter compliance measures, and improving documentation requirements.

The policy aims to establish a more structured, detailed and efficient immigration framework. If effectively implemented, it is expected to attract foreign investment, boost tourism, and contribute to Nigeria's economic development. Additionally, the policy's focus on an online E-visa platform simplifies the application process for individual investors and corporate organizations seeking entry for business purposes, while also providing tourists with a more reliable and transparent system. By aligning with global best practices, Nigeria not only enhances its immigration framework but also strengthens diplomatic relations and fosters investor confidence.

***However, it is important to note that, as of the date of this alert, the policy is still a proposal, and there is no clear information on its implementation timeline. We will continue to monitor developments and keep you informed.***

### How we can help

We specialize in providing comprehensive support to businesses navigating the complexities of Nigerian immigration law. Our expert services encompass providing advice and assistance to ensure seamless compliance with the continually evolving relevant regulations.

1. List of ineligible countries for E-visa – Afghanistan, China, Cote D'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, India, Iraq, Libya, Montenegro, North Korea, North Macedonia, Palestine, Sanit Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates.

For additional information, please contact Immigration Team Bloomfield LP - Email [immigration@bloomfield-law.com](mailto:immigration@bloomfield-law.com) or call +234 1 454 2130

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