

## CoRMSA Urges Inclusive Participation in ZEP Consultations

04 May 2027

The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) calls on Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP) holders and all affected stakeholders to actively participate in the national consultation process currently being undertaken by the Department of Home Affairs.

These consultations are meant to gather input on the future of the ZEP and to help shape recommendations that will be submitted to Cabinet. Meaningful participation in this process is critical: it ensures that the lived experiences of ZEP holders are considered, promotes transparency in decision-making and helps prevent unfair or unlawful changes.

This consultation process follows legal and advocacy efforts led by civil societies, including CoRMSA and the Helen Suzman Foundation, to protect the rights of ZEP holders. In 2023, there was a ruling by the High Court in the *Helen Suzman Foundation v Minister of Home Affairs and Others* case, that the decision to terminate the ZEP was unlawful, unconstitutional, and invalid. CoRMSA was the second applicant in this case. The judgment ruled that ZEP holders, must be given a meaningful opportunity to be heard before decisions affecting their legal status are made.

Since the ruling, CoRMSA has worked closely with partners to provide coordinate advocacy, and amplify the voices of affected communities. These efforts have ensured continued public scrutiny and accountability in the Department's approach to ZEP holders.

Despite multiple extensions of the ZEP, approximately 178,000 individuals remain in uncertainty regarding their future in South Africa. CoRMSA emphasises that this consultation process represents a critical opportunity to shape a fair, lawful, and sustainable outcome.

CoRMSA urges the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that all Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP) holders, as well as relevant stakeholders, are adequately informed of the consultation processes and are enabled to participate meaningfully, freely, and without any form of discrimination.

### How to Participate:

ZEP holders, civil society organisations, and members of the public are encouraged to make written submissions:

- **Email:** [ZEPLEP@dha.gov.za](mailto:ZEPLEP@dha.gov.za)
- **Post:** Department of Home Affairs, Private Bag X114, Pretoria, 0001
- **Deadline:** 15 June 2026
- **For more information visit:** <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/home-affairs-clarifies-policy-position-zimbabwe-exemption-permit-holders-15>

There will also be public consultations in the following provinces:

- Eastern Cape: 13 May 2026 (Virtual)
- Kwa-Zulu Natal: 15 May 2026 (Virtual)
- Northwest Rustenburg: 19 May 2026 (In-person)
- Western Cape: 20 May 2026 (Virtual)
- Limpopo Musina: 22 May 2026 (In-person)
- Mpumalanga Mbombela: 26 May 2026 (In person)
- Northern Cape: 02 June 2026 (Virtual)
- Gauteng (Johannesburg or Tshwane): 05 June 2026 (In-person)

CoRMSA remains committed to advocating for the protection of migrant rights and to supporting inclusive, transparent, and rights-based policymaking processes.