



# ubuntu

showing humanity through relationships with others



Volume V, Issue I

September 2009

## Greetings to Americans in South Africa from the U.S. Consulates General in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

We have an estimated 18,000 U.S. citizens living all across this great country, and we are eager to see as many as possible subscribe to the *Ubuntu* newsletter as well the travel warnings, public announcements and warden messages which each of the Consulates sends out from time to time. Just go to <https://travelregistration.state.gov> to register.

This edition of *Ubuntu* discusses Johannesburg's appointment system for routine American Citizen Services cases and also explains new procedures at all three Consulates for certain limited passport services using a courier service. We also are pleased to call your attention to our Facebook sites for the Cape Town ([facebook.com/US.Consular.Section.CPT](https://facebook.com/US.Consular.Section.CPT)) and Johannesburg Consulates ([facebook.com/usdos.johannesburg](https://facebook.com/usdos.johannesburg)), both of which are always looking for more "fans" or "friends."

With the recent success of the underdog U.S. team in the Confederations Cup, it's a great time to be an American in South Africa. Remember all of us are ambassadors for our nation wherever we are in the world, and as always there is plenty for us to be proud of and grateful for as Americans. Best wishes, and keep in touch!

- Doron Bard, Country Consular Coordinator for South Africa

### Appointments Required for Routine American Citizen Services in JOHANNESBURG

As you might recall from the January newsletter, in October of 2008 we began requesting that American citizens make appointments for routine services in Johannesburg. In order to provide the most efficient service and set aside enough time for your needs, the Consulate General in Johannesburg established an appointment system for routine services.

If you need to renew a passport, add visa pages, file for a Report of Birth Abroad for your new baby or wish to have documents notarized, please make an appointment at [http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/acs\\_appointments.html](http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/acs_appointments.html). When you have made your appointment a confirmation page will appear on your screen; please print the confirmation and bring it to your Consulate appointment. Please note that the top of your appointment confirmation will say "Parking Pass." This appointment confirmation will allow you to park in the visitor parking area. **For security purposes, you will not be permitted to park in the visitor parking area without this pass.**

You can book an appointment up to one month in advance. Having an appointment will ensure that your needs are met on the dates requested and minimize wait time. **Emergency services will still be provided as needed.**

You may also complete your passport application forms online in advance at: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms\\_847.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html). Please print your forms and bring them with you to the Consulate, along with your 2"x2" (5cm x 5cm) photos, if required. Do not sign your forms prior to your appointment.

Remember, the appointment system is currently only in use for Consulate General **Johannesburg**. The Consulates General in Cape Town and Durban will continue to provide services on a walk-in basis only.

*For information on the new appointment system, please contact us at [consularjohannesburg@state.gov](mailto:consularjohannesburg@state.gov).*

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**For the latest international travel information, please visit:**  
<http://travel.state.gov>

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## Limited Passport Services Without Traveling to Consulates

U.S. Consulates in South Africa are now able to accept:

- DS-82 Applications for a U.S. Passport by Mail, (Applicants renewing their 10 year Passport and name change through marriage or divorce)

- DS-4085 Applications for Additional Visa Pages, and
- DS-5504 Applications for a U.S. Passport: (Trade-in Emergency Passport for a full validity passport)

### Checklist for Passport Applications

APPLICATION FORMS	WHO QUALIFIES?	REQUIREMENTS	FEES (in USD)
<b>DS-82</b> Passport application for U.S. Passport by mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those renewing a 10 year (Adult) Passport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original passport</li> <li>• 2 Passport photographs (5cmx5cm/ 2inch x 2inch with white background)</li> </ul>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>DS-82</b> Passport application for U.S. Passport by mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name change through marriage/divorce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original Marriage Certificate or Original Divorce Decree</li> <li>• 2 Passport photographs (5cmx5cm / 2inch x 2inch with white background)</li> </ul>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>DS-4085</b> Application for Additional Visa Pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Applicants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original Passport</li> </ul>	<b>NO FEE</b>
<b>DS-5504</b> Application for U.S. Passport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade-in of Emergency Passport for a full validity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original Passport</li> <li>• 2 Passport photographs(5c</li> </ul>	<b>NO FEE</b>

	passport	mx5cm/ 2inch x 2inch with white background)	
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Our consulates will accept these forms via DHL or MDS (Messenger & Delivery Services Holdings) courier services. To find the form(s) you need, please visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport>.

Applicants must submit all fees associated with their application in the form of a South African Rand bank-guaranteed check payable to U.S. Consulate General (Johannesburg, Durban or Cape Town) as appropriate. Checks will be honored for 30 days after the date they are drawn. **The Consulate exchange rate for the month of October is R7.7/1USD. Updates on the Consulate exchange rate can be found on the Consulate website:** <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/service.html>

**Please note the Consulate has the discretion to request a personal appearance of an applicant.**

To take advantage of this service, applicants must:

- Complete all questions and sign the proper form (s)
- Include any applicable fees for the month in which the application is sent
- Submit the old passport to be replaced, the passport to be amended, or the passport to which pages will be added
- Include a prepaid, self-addressed, return envelope from the same courier company along with application and applicable fees. The Consulate will return both old and new documents in the prepaid envelope

**\*\*\*\*Incomplete applications or those missing a check drawn in the proper amount will be returned in the prepaid, self-addressed, return envelope and no further action will be taken.**

**If the prepaid, self-addressed, return envelope is not included with the application, all documentation will be returned via South African mail and no further action will be taken on the case.**

**If there is a problem processing the application, a letter will be sent explaining the reason(s) for return\*\*\*\***

## Entry Requirements for South Africa

**The Department of State recommends that the passports of all travelers to South Africa contain at least two completely blank (unstamped) visa pages each time entry is sought.** These pages are in addition to the endorsement/amendment pages (as many as four) at the back of the passport. While South African statutes require only one completely blank visa page, this rule has been applied inconsistently by South African immigration officials. **Travelers lacking adequate blank pages in the passport may be refused entry into South Africa,** fined, and returned to their point of origin at the traveler's expense. South African authorities have denied diplomatic missions access to assist travelers in these cases. As a general precaution, all travelers are advised to carry a photocopy of the photo/bio information page of their passport and keep it in a location separate from the passport.

For more country specific information on South Africa visit: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html)

## Getting Married in South Africa

The following are the noted general requirements for getting married in South Africa. Once again it is suggested that intending bridal couples should consult a marriage officer in South Africa who is to perform the ceremony to ensure compliance with the prescribed formalities. Visit the Home Affairs website for more information <http://www.home-affairs.gov.za>

- 2 valid forms of identification; one must be a photo ID
- A notarized declaration by the party concerned to the effect that the person is not aware of any lawful impediment to the proposed marriage. The declaration can be notarized at the Consulate for a fee of \$30.
- There is no residency requirement for foreign nationals
- There is no blood testing requirement

## Exchanging a U.S. Driver's License in South Africa\*

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A foreign driver's license may be exchanged for a South African driver's license if:

- The license is valid
- The license is in an official language of South Africa
- The license is **accompanied by a letter of validity obtained from the relevant embassy\*** and a translation if the license is not in an official language of South Africa
- The license has a photo and signature of the holder.

\*The Consulate **does not** issue such letters because driver's licenses are issued by state and not Federal government. Contact the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) in the state that issued the license to obtain the confirmation letter on <http://www.dmv.org>

### U.S. Embassy Pretoria

877 Pretorius Street, Arcadia

T: +27 012 431-4000

F: +27 012 431-5504

<http://usembassy.state.gov/pretoria/>

### U.S. Consulate General Johannesburg

1 Sandton Drive (corner of Sandton Drive and Rivonia Road), Sandton

Mailing address – South African

Post Office Only : P.O. Box

787197, Sandton 2146

T: +27 011 290-3000

F: +27 011 884-0396

*Jurisdiction includes Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, and Free State provinces.*

### U.S. Consulate General Cape Town

2 Reddam Avenue, Westlake

T: +27 021 702-7300

F: +27 021 702-7493

*Jurisdiction includes Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape provinces.*

### U.S. Consulate General Durban

## WARDEN MESSAGES & REGISTRATION

Old Mutual Building, 31st floor, 303 West Street

T: +27 031 305-7600

F: +27 031 305-7691

*Jurisdiction is KwaZulu-Natal province*

*Each Consulate periodically sends out important messages to all US Citizens in its Consular District. Often, if the information is going out in a Warden Message it is of an urgent nature. We recommend you read these messages carefully to allow for appropriate action or caution in your regular activities. The Department of State encourages all American citizens residing abroad to register their presence at the nearest American Embassy or Consulate through <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. Registration will make your presence and whereabouts known in case it is necessary to contact you in an emergency and enable you to receive up-to-date information on security conditions. Create an account as a Long-term Traveler/Overseas Resident and you'll be able to return to the registration website at any time to update your permanent residence and contact information. In accordance with the Privacy Act, information on your welfare or whereabouts may not be released to inquirers without your express written consent. Registration through the website is not considered proof of citizenship. Keep copies of your passport or other citizenship documents with a friend or relative in case of emergency.*

Recent Warden Messages can be found at:

[http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/information\\_for\\_travelers.html](http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/information_for_travelers.html)

## Was your South African visa lost or stolen? Contact the Department of Home Affairs

If your U.S. passport has been lost or stolen, your first stop is the U.S. Consulate, where we will issue a replacement (please be sure to bring any police reports with you). After you have your new U.S. passport, be sure to contact the South African Department of



Home Affairs to have a new visa/permit placed in your passport. This will keep you in compliance with South African immigration laws and facilitate your exit from/reentry to South Africa on your next international trip. Please visit [www.home-affairs.gov.za](http://www.home-affairs.gov.za) to find your nearest DHA office.

*UBUNTU* is intended for American Citizens residing in or visiting South Africa. We encourage you to send us your feedback or submit items of general interest to the American community in South Africa. While we can't accept advertising, we welcome other announcements including events, meetings, religious services or other activities. We also welcome your questions or suggestions on consular themes you would like us to address. Please send an email to us at [consularjohannesburg@state.gov](mailto:consularjohannesburg@state.gov) and include "Ubuntu" in the subject line.

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## AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

**The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) is the collective voice of U.S. investment in South Africa.** Based in Johannesburg it was founded in 1977 as a non profit association. It is one of 110 such chambers around the world. AmCham's members span the broad cross-section of the South African economy with the information technology and communications being the biggest sector.

Of the membership 83% are U.S. or Canadian subsidiaries, 15% are South African companies and the remaining are U.S. S.A. partnerships. 65 of our members are Fortune 500 companies.

The membership employs more than 60,000 people in South Africa. Collectively our members spend in excess of R100 million on social responsibility and community development related to training, education, health, HIV AIDS and welfare.

The Chamber operates via several committees. These are trade, security, health, BEE, CSR, energy and counterfeiting.

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Tel +27 11 788 0265, Fax +27 11 880 1632

Email [amcham@amcham.co.za](mailto:amcham@amcham.co.za)

Website [www.amcham.co.za](http://www.amcham.co.za)

## Join the American Society

The American Society is a group of American expatriates here on temporary assignment or here permanently as they have married a South African or have decided to relocate for other reasons. We also have some South African members who work with American companies or have a vested interest in American culture. A majority of the group has been in South Africa for several years on a permanent basis and really has great knowledge of the country. Most of all, our members are a diverse group with experience from all over the globe, wanting to gather simply to feel a sense of our own community while here in South Africa.

We are a social group that gathers together at cultural events, happy hours, family-friendly venues and those real traditional American holidays; for instance, most years we organize a Thanksgiving dinner and gather at a BBQ for the 4th of July. We also have plans to add community service to our list of activities as we wish to reach out to the local community in need.

**If you would like to join our society or obtain more information, please email: [AmericanSocietyofSA@gmail.com](mailto:AmericanSocietyofSA@gmail.com)**

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