

STOP ATTACKS



#WeAreAfrica

**The South African Government calls for
an end to attacks on foreign nationals**

Together we move South Africa forward



**government
communications**

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The South African Government calls for an end to attacks on foreign nationals

Following shocking and unacceptable incidents of violence directed at foreign nationals in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal and Johannesburg in Gauteng in the past week, government appeals for peace, tolerance and restraint.

South African citizens are peace-loving and friendly people. South Africans at all levels – from the President to citizens – have condemned and rejected the violent attacks on foreign nationals in our country. These terrible acts of violence were perpetuated by a few misguided people.

Citizens from across the continent supported our fight for freedom and liberation. They made immense sacrifices to provide safety and refuge to our people in exile, including our leaders such as former President Nelson Mandela.

South Africans lived side-by-side with foreign nationals for years.

Government is working together with all stakeholders to stop and discourage attacks on foreign nationals.

We must all Play our Part to stop attacks on foreign nationals

- Government urges all South African citizens to support efforts to stop the attacks on foreign nationals. We cannot allow attacks on foreign nationals in our country.
- South Africa is internationally renowned for using dialogue to solve differences and problems peacefully. As a peace-loving and law-abiding nation, we must use this noble approach to deal with our problems instead of using violence.
- The South African Government is receptive to people's needs and urges all citizens to use relevant platforms to express their concerns and frustrations, including talking to elected officials in their communities.
- Anger and violence will never provide sustainable solutions to challenges, but will only bring strife and suffering.
- We appeal to citizens to play their part in bringing an end to violence. Please exercise restraint and calm, and express your concerns through the available channels.
- Anger and violence will not take away your challenges, but will have a negative impact on the image and reputation of our beautiful country.
- Let's protect the South African nation brand.

- If South Africa has a negative reputation, it will impact on potential investments and tourism, the latter which is one of the largest contributors to job creation.
- When violence causes our visitors to cancel their travel plans to South Africa, it impacts negatively on our country's economic growth and development.

How are we addressing misconceptions about foreign nationals?

Answer: It is misleading and wrong to label or regard all foreign nationals as being involved in crime in the country.

- Many foreign nationals are in the country legally and contribute to the country's development.
- Many bring scarce skills that help us to develop the economy and are most welcome to live in our country.
- Others came to South Africa as refugees who fled from conflict or war in their own countries, in the same way that many South Africans left this country at some point and lived in other countries in the continent and beyond.

What is the value of foreign nationals to South Africa?

- Immigrants contribute to South Africa's economic development and pay their taxes.
- Foreign nationals contribute to enhancing South Africa's national security.
- Immigrants contribute towards South Africa's diversity and nation-building.
- Immigrants have helped South Africa integrate into the global community.

Helplines:

NATJOC	012 640 9000/2/5
North West	018 497 7458
Northern Cape	053 838 4419/375/303
Free State	051 412 6652/56
KwaZulu-Natal	031 325 4720
Western Cape	021 466 0014
Eastern Cape	040 608 7401/2/3/4
Limpopo	015 285 7600/651/615
Mpumalanga	013 762 7071/75

Social Development Helpline: 0800428428