
GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 847 OF 2013



STANDING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS

Office of the Chairperson
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NOTICE BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS OF ITS INTENTION TO REVIEW THE REFUGEE STATUS OF ALL ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs is a statutory body established in terms of section 9(1) of the Refugees Act, 130 of 1998.

The Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs, having considered the Declaration of Cessation of the Angolan Refugee situation by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) issued on 15 January 2012, and the subsequent declaration by its various Member states, including states that host Angolan refugees in SADC, and the latest indication by the Cabinet of the Republic of South Africa that the Government of the Republic of South Africa endorses the cessation declaration made by the UNHCR, has met and considered various reports and studies at its disposal on the developments in Angola and has, inter alia, concluded that Angola has made great strides in transforming itself into a peaceful and stable democracy with a growing economy. The Standing Committee has accordingly decided that:

In terms of Section 36 of the Refugees Act, the Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs may withdraw the refugee status of any refugee who ceases to qualify for such status. A person ceases to qualify for refugee status when for instance he or she can no longer continue to refuse to avail himself or herself of the protection of the country of his or her nationality, because the circumstances in connection with which he or she was recognised as a refugee have ceased to exist and no other circumstances have arisen which justify his or her continued recognition as a refugee.

The Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs has concluded that the circumstances in Angola have changed to the extent that no Angolan who previously sought asylum on the basis of the general unrest and insecurity in Angola, during and shortly after the civil war, can continue to refuse to avail him or herself of the protection of that state.

As such the Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs hereby gives notice of its intention to review the status of all affected Angolan Refugees in South Africa.

All efforts will be made to communicate with all affected persons by 2 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter and notices of its intent to withdraw the refugee status of all affected Angolan refugees will be sent to their last known address and to the Refugee Reception Office that is in possession of the relevant file of the affected Angolan refugee.

The Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs
7th Floor, City Centre Building
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Pretoria