



4 May 2020

NEWSLETTER ON THE REPATRIATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS

#Repatriation



Since the announcement of the State of Disaster by President Cyril Ramaphosa, which saw South Africa implementing a lockdown on 26 March 2020, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation has facilitated the repatriation by air of over 3 000 South Africans stranded abroad.

Hundreds have also returned through land borders.

Given the challenges experienced regarding the repatriation of South Africans, mainly from Asia and the Middle East, the department is pleased to announce that on Friday, 8 May 2020, about 600 South Africans from Bangkok, Thailand, Bali and Jakarta will be repatriated.

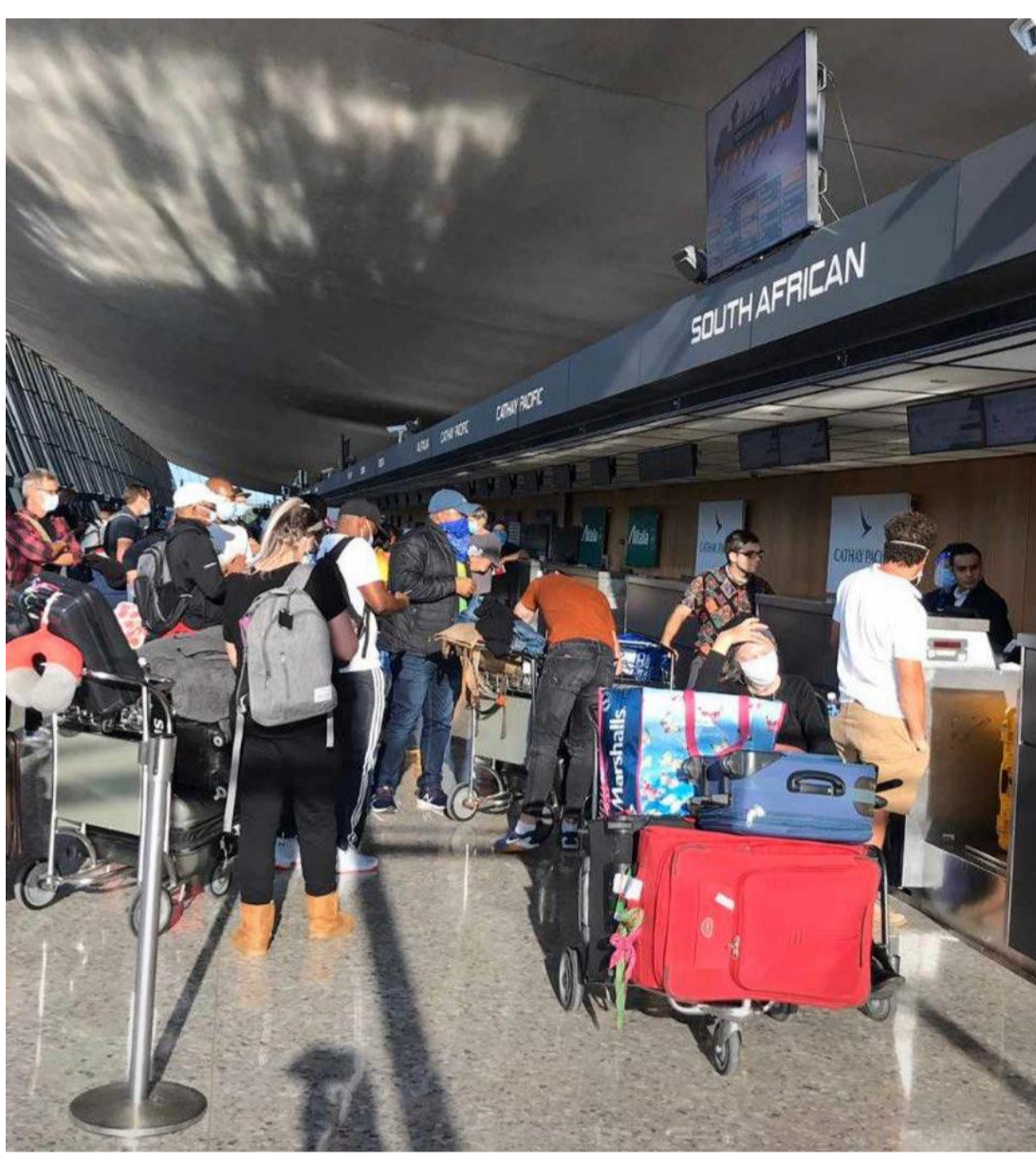
“The department wishes to assure all those who are still stranded abroad that it is doing everything it can to find ways to bring them home.”

Over 3 000 South Africans have been repatriated to date. Hundreds more have crossed over land borders from neighbouring states.

ARRIVALS EXPECTED

SAA will be repatriating South African nationals stranded in the United States of America (USA), Thailand and Indonesia. A portal has been opened on the SAA website for all passengers to register their interests and pay through Electronic Funds Transfer. The flights are scheduled as follows:

- 5 May 2020: From Washington, USA, repatriating approximately 275 South Africans
- 8 May 2020: From Bangkok, Thailand, repatriating approximately 275 South Africans
- 8 May 2020: From Bali and Jakarta, repatriating approximately 275 South Africans
- 9 May 2020: From Washington, USA, repatriating approximately 275 South Africans.



ARRIVALS TO DATE

8 April 2020

- A SAA flight from São Paulo repatriated 66 South Africans from Brazil
- A SAA flight from Frankfurt repatriated 54 South Africans from Germany

9 April 2020

- A Turkish Air cargo flight repatriated two South Africans accompanying mortal remains of the deceased father

10 April 2020

- A private charter repatriated four South Africans from Afghanistan
- A private charter repatriated 49 South Africans from Namibia

11 April 2020

- A SAA flight from Brussels to Johannesburg, with a stop-over in Lagos, repatriated 119 South Africans
- A private charter repatriated 41 South Africans from the Maldives

12 April 2020

- A SAA flight from London to Cape Town repatriated 200 South Africans
- A private charter repatriated four South Africans from Madagascar

13 April 2020

- A SAA flight from Ghana repatriated 62 South Africans

14 April 2020

- A private charter repatriated three South Africans from Zambia

15 April 2020

- A SAA flight chartered by Workaways International in the USA repatriated 305 South African workers

16 April 2020

- An Ethiopian Airlines cargo flight from Addis Ababa repatriated 13 South Africans

17 April 2020

- A SAA flight from Frankfurt via Luanda repatriated 84 South Africans

18 April 2020

- A SAA flight from Frankfurt via Rome repatriated 80 South Africans from Italy
- A private charter repatriated six South African crew members from Haiti

19 April 2020

- A SAA flight from Frankfurt repatriated 206 South Africans
- A private charter flight repatriated 36 South Africans from Luanda, Angola
- A private charter flight from Cameroon via Luanda, Angola, repatriated 29 South Africans

21 April 2020

- A Saudi Air flight repatriated 93 South Africans from Saudi Arabia
- A private charter repatriated 83 South Africans from Pakistan

23 April 2020

- A SAA flight re-routed through Cairo, Egypt, repatriated 25 South Africans
- A Saudi Air flight repatriated 60 South Africans
- A special charter flight from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) repatriated 11 South Africans

24 April 2020

- A special charter flight repatriated 23 South Africans from Zambia
- A special charter flight repatriated two South Africans from Zambia

25 April 2020

- The last SAA flight from Frankfurt, chartered by the German Government, returned to South Africa with 160 people on board
- An Emirates Air flight repatriated 165 South Africans on a special charter flight from Dubai
- A special charter flight repatriated nine South Africans from Guinea Conakry
- A special charter flight repatriated 23 South Africans from the Seychelles

28 April 2020

- A Qantas Air flight, chartered by the Australian Government, repatriated 185 South Africans

29 April 2020

- A charter flight from Tanzania repatriated 26 South Africans
- A charter flight from Egypt repatriated 13 South Africans
- A charter flight from the DRC repatriated 51 South Africans

30 April 2020

- A Namibian Air Charter repatriated 23 South Africans

1 May 2020

- A charter flight from Mali repatriated 19 South Africans
- A CemAir Charter flight from Harare repatriated 26 passengers
- An Ethiopian Airlines charter repatriated 256 South Africans (Workaways)
- A private charter flight repatriated three South Africans from Madagascar

2 May 2020

- A private charter flight repatriated 19 South Africans from Mali

3 May 2020

- A SAA flight from Washington, USA, repatriated 275 South Africans.

Negotiations and arrangements continue in earnest to repatriate all destitute South Africans

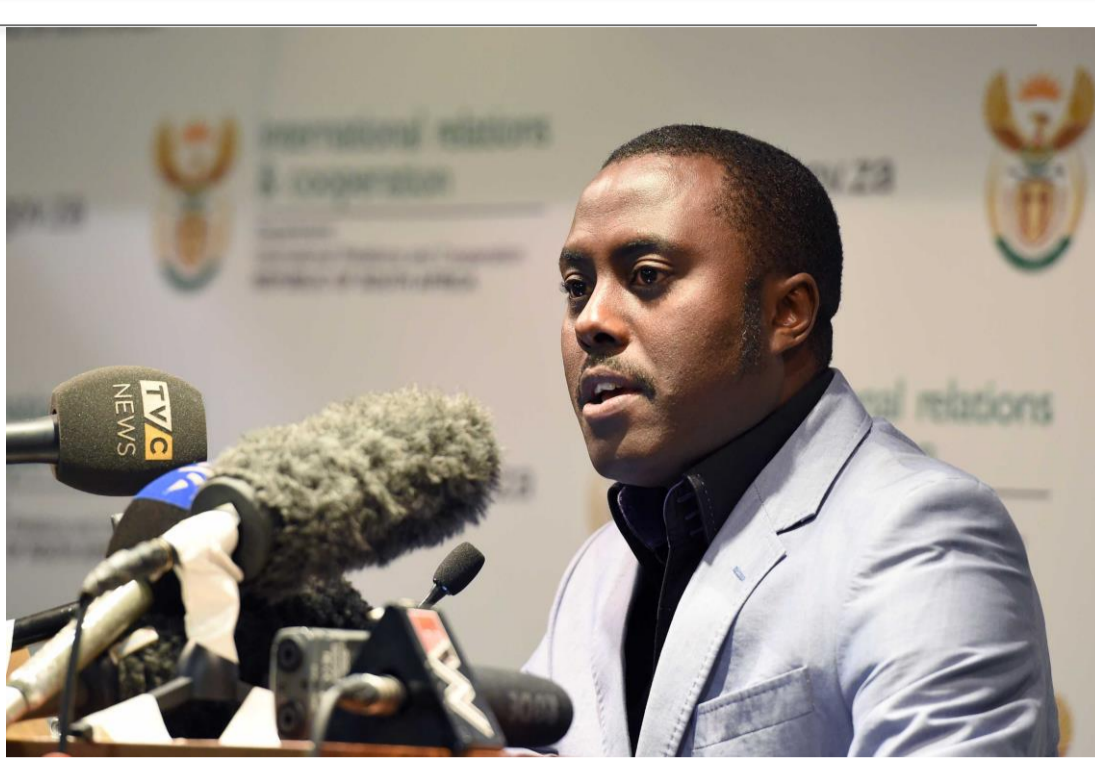
The majority of South Africans who were stranded in Europe and the United Kingdom have been repatriated.

A further 400 South Africans are stranded throughout Africa and we are working with various stakeholders to explore options on how best to facilitate their return.

Through the South African mission in Turkey, we continue to monitor the situation of 50 students and 29 artists and are looking at possible ways of repatriating those who want to come back home.

We appreciate the cooperation of the Turkish Government. They have given us the assurances that all students will remain in their university residences as well as receive their daily meals. We continue to explore solutions for the 29 artists, and are pleased that the Turkish Government has assisted with food and other necessities.

In the News



Govt seeking to repatriate artists, students stuck in Turkey

4 May 2020

Twenty-nine South African artists and 50 students, stuck in Turkey amid the coronavirus crisis, are pleading with the government to bring them back home.

Spokesperson Clayton Monyela says the department is looking at repatriating those who wish to come back.

“Through our mission in Turkey, we continue to monitor the situation of the 50 students and 29 South African artists who have reached out to us.

“They have given us assurances that all students will remain in their university residences as well as receive their daily meals.”

Monyela says despite the difficulties experienced in the Middle East and Asia, 600 South Africans will be repatriated.

“The department is pleased to announce that on Friday about 600 South Africans from Bangkok, Thailand, Bali and Jakarta will be repatriated.”

Meanwhile, 275 South Africans who were stranded in the USA arrived back home on Sunday with another group expected to arrive on Tuesday.

A further 400 South Africans are stranded throughout Africa.

Listen to the full interview on: <https://www.jacarandafm.com/news/news/govt-seeking-repatriate-artists-students-stuck-turkey/>

275 South Africans repatriated from US, hundreds more to arrive this week

4 May 2020

The first of three SAA flights to repatriate South Africans from the US has landed on home soil.

The flight, which landed on Sunday evening, was carrying 275 South African citizens, Department of International Relations and Cooperation spokesperson Clayton Monyela said.

The remaining two flights would arrive on 5 May and 9 May, carrying 275 passengers each. These follow several flights from Miami, the last of which arrived on Friday and was carrying 256 South Africans.

Once the last SAA flight lands on 9 May, all South Africans who requested repatriation from the US would be home, Monyela said. All of them would undergo a 14-day quarantine period at a government-selected quarantine site, he added.

With the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown imposed by countries across the globe - which includes the almost complete cessation of flights - about 4 500 South Africans found themselves stranded abroad, according to a circular released by Dirco on 27 April.

These included tourist and South Africans working overseas, who now found themselves unemployed. By 27 April, more than 2 000 South African had been repatriated, with around 11 chartered and commercial airline flights taking place that week.

Most South Africans stranded in Europe have been evacuated, according to the circular. However, more than 1 100 South Africans remain stranded in Asia, 400 in Australia, and more than 350 in other African countries.

Source: <https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/275-south-africans-repatriated-from-us-hundreds-more-to-arrive-this-week-20200503>

200 repatriated South Africans expected to arrive on Sunday from the US

SABC News

3 May 2020

The South African Embassy in Washington says many South Africans in the US, Caribbean countries and Canada have requested to be repatriated back home, after they have lost their jobs due to the impact of the coronavirus.



A South African Airways (SAA) flight with 200 South Africans is expected to arrive at the O.R Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg later on Sunday.

The South African Embassy in Washington says many South Africans in the US, Caribbean countries and Canada have requested to be repatriated, after losing their jobs amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Among the passengers are citizens who were working in hospitality, particularly resorts or country clubs in the United States.

Some were on holiday, while others were passengers on cruises that are no longer operating due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The first of three flights to South Africa, will arrive from Washington DC on Sunday evening. The South African Embassy in Washington also confirmed that a second flight would depart on Sunday followed by a third repatriation flight on May 10. Passengers will be expected to enter a two-week quarantine upon arrival in South Africa.

SA Ambassador to the United States, Nomaindia Mfeketo says this first group forms part of 1000 South Africans who will be brought back home.

“The first flight will have 275, the second will have the same number and the third flight will be more than that because it will also include South Africans in nearby countries like Canada and other countries. Chicago, LA and New York are part of the 1000, it’s only the third flight that will include people from other areas.

The South African government also repatriated its citizens from Wuhan province (China) which was the epicenter, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates in March and April. The military and SAA staff flew from South Africa to Wuhan to repatriate the South Africans in March.

They were screened before the flight and entered a three-week quarantine period in Limpopo after arriving back on South African soil. The group has tested negative for COVID-19.

Listen to the full interview on: <https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/200-repatriated-south-africans-expected-to-arrive-on-sunday-from-the-us/>

STAY HOME

SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

CONTACT US:

Command Centre:

+27 12 351 1754

+27 12 351 1756

Cicc1@dirco.gov.za or

Cicc2@dirco.gov.za



international relations & cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

WHATSAPP SUPPORT
0600 123 456
EMERGENCY NUMBER
0800 029 999
sacoronavirus.co.za