



Immigration Regulatory Updates

AUGUST 2026

In this August 2026 edition of the Moroom Africa Immigration Update, regulatory tightening and service modernisation move forward on parallel tracks across the continent and its diaspora. Nigeria dominates this month's coverage: immigration authorities have deployed a passport intervention team to the UK, apologised over a widely shared account of a diaspora passport ordeal, pressed ahead with the centralisation of passport production, and, separately, employers are being told to bring corporate documentation into line with CAC requirements. Ghana's new investment law adds fresh compliance layers for foreign-owned companies, while Kenya has clarified the minimum travel insurance cover expected of short-stay visitors. Elsewhere, Chad has announced continent-wide visa-free entry from 2027, Ethiopia is rolling out global e-passport services for its diaspora, and the United States has named a new Consul General in Lagos as its regional visa-hub consolidation beds in.

1. Nigerians in the UK With Delayed Contactless Passports Asked to Submit Details

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has asked applicants in the United Kingdom who completed a Contactless Passport Application but have not yet received their passport to submit their details through a Contactless Passport Application Resolution Form, announced via the Service's official X account.

Affected applicants must provide full names, contact details, application and reference numbers, and their location in the UK, along with whether a self-addressed envelope was sent with their old passport and whether the application has been tracked. NIS said submitted complaints would be reviewed after three working days.

2. NIS Announces September Dates for UK Passport Intervention Exercise

Following the deployment of a Passport Intervention Team from NIS headquarters in Abuja on the directive of the Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, the Service has confirmed dates and venues for an in-person intervention exercise in four UK cities. London (Layali Lounge, Trent Park) and Manchester (Nigerian House) will run from 7 to 19 September, while Aberdeen (Hilton Convention Centre) and Cardiff (Sophia Gardens) will run from 21 to 26 September.

- Applicants must apply and pay in advance through the NIS passport application portal – cash will not be accepted on site
- Bring a completed application form, payment slip, appointment slip and a self-addressed return envelope
- Passport renewals additionally require the current passport

The exercise covers new applications, renewals and resolution of pending cases. NIS confirmed that its digital channels, including the **Contactless Passport Application System**, and home delivery remain available throughout.

Business relevance: Organisations with UK-based Nigerian staff or dependents should flag the relevant city and date window now, given required advance payment through the online portal.

3. NIS Apologises After US-Based Nigerian Alleges #1 Million Passport Renewal Ordeal

NIS has apologised to Sage Vincent Ike, a US-based Nigerian whose account of a four-month passport renewal ordeal went viral on X, and described a \$150 payment he says was demanded for third-party passport collection as illegal. The Service advised applicants against using touts or unauthorised intermediaries, noting that a duly signed letter of authorisation is sufficient for a representative to collect a passport.

Ike said his biometric appointment in Atlanta was disrupted by an unannounced holiday closure; that he paid roughly \$280 including a fee to have the passport mailed; and that he later paid a further ₦460,000 in Nigeria after being told that a change-of-data approval had to be processed separately in Abuja. He received the passport on 22 July, four months after applying.

Why this matters: Even as digital channels expand, applicants should use official NIS portals and authorisation letters rather than informal intermediaries, and keep documentation of all payments.

4. U.S. Names Brandon Hudspeth as New Consul General in Lagos

Brandon Hudspeth has been appointed U.S. Consul General in Lagos, returning to Nigeria after previously serving as the Consulate's Political-Economic Section Chief. He most recently served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Namibia, with earlier postings in the Philippines, Mali, Cuba and Afghanistan.

The appointment follows the 1 August 2026 transfer of routine U.S. visa services from Abuja to Lagos, part of a broader State Department restructuring that has reduced the number of African posts handling routine visas from nearly 50 to 20 designated hubs, including Accra, Nairobi, Johannesburg and Addis Ababa. A new U.S. consulate campus is under construction in Eko Atlantic City, Lagos.

Business relevance: Employers with staff requiring routine U.S. visa interviews in Nigeria should now route applications through Lagos rather than Abuja.

5. U.S. Embassy in Abuja Continues Diplomatic and Official Visa Processing

The U.S. Embassy in Abuja has confirmed that it will continue to process diplomatic and official visa applications for eligible applicants, notwithstanding the transfer of routine U.S. visa processing from Abuja to the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos since 1 August 2026.

The continued services in Abuja cover A, G and C visa categories, which generally apply to diplomats, government officials and certain international organisation personnel. Applicants who believe they qualify for a diplomatic or official visa are advised to first consult their relevant protocol office, which ordinarily facilitates such applications.

Applicants are required to submit a diplomatic note or note verbale, the DS-160 confirmation page, a diplomatic or official passport, and one recent photograph taken against a white background. The diplomatic note should include key information such as the applicant's name and date of birth, position and title, place and purpose of assignment or visit, duties, intended travel date, anticipated duration of stay, and details of accompanying or joining dependants.

The Embassy has also advised applicants not to pay the Machine Readable Visa (MRV) application fee unless specifically instructed to do so by a consular officer.

Diplomatic and official visa applications may be submitted at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy, Plot 1075, Diplomatic Drive, Central Business District, Abuja, from Monday to Thursday between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The Embassy recommends submitting applications at least 10 business days before the intended departure date to allow sufficient processing time.

The clarification is particularly relevant following the U.S. Mission's restructuring of visa operations across Africa, under which Lagos became Nigeria's designated hub for routine U.S. visa processing. Accordingly, while applicants seeking routine non-immigrant visa services are now expected to process their applications through Lagos, eligible diplomatic and official visa applicants may continue to access the relevant services in Abuja.

6. NIS Confirms Passport Services Remain Operational Amid Centralisation Reform

NIS has reassured applicants that passport processing and issuance continue as normal at passport offices nationwide and designated missions abroad, despite the phased centralisation of passport booklet printing and personalisation at a new Central Personalisation Centre at NIS headquarters in Abuja.

The reform is rolling out in five phases; the first three, covering several states and foreign missions, are complete, with phase four beginning this month and the final phase due in the last quarter of 2026. Centrally produced booklets are dispatched to passport offices and missions within two weeks, and NIS says the change is intended to strengthen security and consistency without affecting where applicants can apply.

7. CAC Compliance Requirements for Corporate Identity and Directors' Information

The Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) has reiterated the requirements under the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) 2020 regarding the disclosure of corporate identity and directors' information by companies registered in Nigeria. Companies are required to ensure that their corporate identity and prescribed information are clearly displayed across their physical locations and official business communications.

Key requirements include:

- **Physical signage:** The registered company name must be conspicuously displayed at the company's registered office and all branch locations.
- **Corporate identity on documents:** The registered company name must be clearly stated on business letters, notices, invoices, official publications and other prescribed business documents.

- **RC number:** The company's Registration of Company (RC) number must be displayed on official correspondence, letterheads, invoices and other applicable corporate documents.
- **Disclosure of directors:** The full names of all current directors, as registered with the CAC, must be stated on the company's letterheads and other applicable corporate communications. This requirement applies to both Nigerian and foreign directors. Where a company has foreign directors, their respective nationalities should also be indicated alongside their names.

Companies should review their existing letterheads, invoices, official correspondence, signage and other corporate documents to ensure that the required information is accurately reflected and consistent with the records maintained by the CAC.

Business Relevance: Companies operating in Nigeria should treat these requirements as an immediate compliance matter and conduct an internal review of their corporate documents and physical locations. Particular attention should be given to ensuring that all directors, including foreign directors, are properly identified by their full names and nationalities on applicable company letterheads and communications. Failure to comply may expose companies to regulatory sanctions, penalties or other enforcement measures.

8. Ghana's New Investment Law: Compliance Burden for Foreign-Owned Companies

On 15 July, Ghana signed Act 1173 into law, the most significant overhaul of its foreign capital framework in a decade. The law revises capital thresholds linked to expatriate quota entitlements, offering up to 12 expatriate positions for investments of \$10 million or more, but pairs this with heavier scrutiny from the newly created Ghana Investment Promotion Authority (GIPA, formerly GIPC).

- Annual renewal of GIPA certificates
- Annual reporting to GIPA's national investment registry
- Verified proof of funds transferred to Ghana, required for expatriate quota eligibility
- Periodic review of expatriate quota positions
- Work permit applications routed through GIPA for onward recommendation to the Ghana Immigration Service

Non-compliance can result in fines or suspension of a company's GIPA certificate, with criminal sanctions for false information.

Business relevance: Companies operating in Ghana through a foreign-owned legal entity should review compliance now, confirm renewal dates are in order, and factor GIPA review timelines into assignment planning and work permit tracking.

9. Ethiopia to Launch Global e-Passport Services for Diaspora

Ethiopia's Immigration and Citizenship Service (ICS) is preparing to extend electronic passport services to embassies and consular offices worldwide, supported by a new digital platform for renewals and related consular services that ICS says will remove geographical barriers for citizens living abroad.

ICS also clarified that its "Golden Visa" framework is unlikely to be mandatory for all non-citizen diaspora members: holders of the Yellow Card, Ethiopia's foreign identification for people of Ethiopian origin, already retain statutory rights to invest, reside, and move freely in the country.

Domestically, ICS has strengthened regional branch offices so residents can access services without travelling to Addis Ababa, and most residency permit and visa processing has already moved online. Director General Selamawit Dawit reported total agency revenue of 42.7 billion ETB for the last fiscal year, including 5.4 billion ETB in foreign currency.

10. Travelling to Kenya? Minimum Travel Insurance Cover Clarified

Travel health insurance has long been a legal requirement for foreign visitors staying less than 12 months in Kenya, though proof was not always requested at the border. Kenya has now set out a minimum cover of \$50,000 for this short-stay category, broken down as follows:

- \$20,000 for medical expenses
- \$25,000 for emergency medical transport
- \$5,000 for repatriation of remains
- \$1,000 for mental health treatment
- \$300 for prescribed medicines

This clarifies rather than changes the underlying rule, and applies specifically to visitors staying under 12 months— it should not automatically be read across to those resident in Kenya for longer.

Business relevance: Confirm that any staff travelling to Kenya carry a compliant policy meeting the \$50,000 minimum before departure, rather than relying on what sufficed on a previous trip.

Conclusion

August 2026 underscores the same dual pattern seen through much of the year: Nigeria's continued administrative tightening and passport reforms, alongside broader regulatory developments and service modernisation across Africa.

In Nigeria, the ongoing passport reforms, including the UK passport intervention exercise and the continuing centralisation rollout, remain particularly relevant to diaspora communities and organisations with affected staff, who should continue to monitor developments and the scheduled September UK intervention dates closely, while the CAC compliance requirement for Nigerian companies further reflects the country's broader push towards regulatory compliance and administrative enforcement.

Across the region, Ghana has introduced a heavier GIPA compliance regime, Kenya has clarified its minimum insurance requirements, and several countries are pursuing measures aimed at expanding and modernising immigration services, including Chad's forthcoming visa-free policy and Ethiopia's global e-passport rollout, while the change in U.S. consular leadership in Lagos also marks a notable development for organisations and individuals navigating U.S. immigration and consular services.

Should you require further assistance or clarification on any of the above, please feel free to contact pamilerin.akabunwa@moroomafrica.com,
uzochukwu.kpaduwa@moroomafrica.com

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KEY CONTACTS



Pamilerin Akabunwa

Partner

[*pamilerin.akabunwa@moroomafrica.com*](mailto:pamilerin.akabunwa@moroomafrica.com)



Uzochukwu Kpaduwa

Associate

[*Uzochukwu.kpaduwa@moroomafrica.com*](mailto:Uzochukwu.kpaduwa@moroomafrica.com)