

MEDIA INFORMATION

Johannesburg, 1 March 2021

VFS Global expands Italy visa services presence in South Africa

- **Italy Visa Application Centre in Cape Town launched on 1 March 2021 and to be followed by Port Elizabeth as the next city to commence operations**
- **With the new launches, VFS Global will have an extensive Italy visa services network in South Africa and will process an estimated 20,000 visa applications yearly**

On 1 March 2021, Mr Emanuele Pollio, Consul of Italy in Cape Town, inaugurated the new Italy Visa Application Centre in the city of Cape Town, South Africa. Another Centre will be launched in Port Elizabeth for the convenience of customers who will no longer need to travel to other locations.

VFS Global shares a long-standing relationship with the Government of Italy since 2004 and presently serves customers through a vast network of 89 Visa Application Centres across 35 countries. The existing Centres located in Johannesburg, Durban and Pretoria were set up when the Consulate General of Italy awarded a contract to VFS Global in 2019 to provide visa services in South Africa.

Commenting on the inauguration of the Centre, **Mr Jiten Vyas, Regional Group COO, VFS Global**, *"As we continue to build our operational presence on behalf of the Government of Italy in South Africa, I am pleased to announce the extension of our network as part of our commitment to offering a convenient and seamless service. Amidst the ongoing pandemic situation, we are confident that the newly opened VFS Global Italy Visa Application Centres in Cape Town followed by Port Elizabeth will offer customers a safe and secure application process. We would advise our customers to adhere to the precautionary measures established at our Centres for their safety and that our of employees."*

Key features (optional for greater convenience) at the centres include:

- SMS service facility to track your application
- Courier service facility for delivery of passport to your doorstep
- Photocopy, printout and photograph services

Important information for customers who wish to apply for an Italy visa in South Africa

Customers must have a prior appointment to submit their applications at the Italy Visa Application Centres in South Africa. As part of COVID-19 safety measures and directives by the Government of South Africa, only individual appointments will be accepted at the Application Centre. All processed applications will be subject to accepting the optional courier service to reduce the number of visits to the Centre.

As the safety of our customers and staff is our priority, VFS Global has implemented strict health and safety measures in line with Government guidelines for social distancing at the Visa Application Centres. Customers must wear a face mask/face covering to enter the premises and on arrival, a temperature reading will be required. Customers exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, including fever (higher than 37.3 degrees Celsius),

cough and difficulty in breathing will not be allowed to proceed with their applications and be allowed to reschedule their appointments for another day. For more updates including details on operational days and timings, customers can visit our website <https://www.vfsglobal.com/Italy/Southafrica/>

Italy Visa Application Centre

Address in Cape Town: 9th Floor The Towers, Hertzog Boulevard, Cape Town, 8000

Address in Port Elizabeth (to open shortly): 1st Floor, Office 7C Moffett on Main Lifestyle Centre, c/o 17th Avenue and Main Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth

Email id: info.itza@vfshelpline.com

Helpline: +27 (0) 12 425 3048

Website: <https://www.vfsglobal.com/Italy/Southafrica/>

Submission Timing: 0800 hrs-1230hrs and 1330 hrs-1500hrs (Monday to Friday, except holidays)

Collection Timing: 1000 hrs-1230hrs and 1330 hrs-1600hrs (Monday to Friday, except holidays)

*VFS Global will be responsible only for accepting applications for client missions. All applications submitted will continue to be assessed and processed by the respective client missions. Timelines for turn-around are as per the discretion of the authorities.

About VFS Global

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. With 3490 Application Centres, operations in 143 countries across five continents and over 227 million applications processed (since inception in 2001) as on 31 January 2021, VFS Global is the trusted partner of 64 client governments. The company manages non-judgmental and administrative tasks related to applications for visa, passport and consular services for its client governments, enabling them to focus entirely on the critical task of assessment. VFS Global is majority owned by the global investment organisation EQT.

The Swiss-based Kuoni and Hugentobler Foundation holds a minority stake in VFS Global. EQT is a global investment organisation with offices in Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific and with a 25-year track-record of consistent investment performance across multiple geographies, sectors, and strategies. EQT AB Group is listed on the Nasdaq Stockholm stock exchange. EQT manages and advises a range of specialized investment funds and other investment vehicles that invest across the world with the mission to generate attractive returns and future-proof companies. EQT funds' investors do not influence portfolio companies' decision making or strategies. Nor do they have access to private and confidential business assets or client and customer data.

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