



NSBA

Nordic-South African Business Association
Growing Relationships. Stimulating Business.

Exclusive Invitation to Multi-Chamber Breakfast with Minister Dr. Schreiber

Unlocking FDI Potential Amid Visa Policy Challenges

Dear NSBA Corporate Members, Nordic Corporates and FDIs present in South Africa,

We are pleased to invite you to a special **Multi-Chamber Breakfast discussion** featuring guest speaker **Minister Dr. Schreiber of the Department of Home Affairs**. This exclusive event will focus on “Unlocking FDI Potential Amid Visa Policy Challenges,” bringing together the business community to discuss one of the most pressing issues facing investment and growth.

Join us for a morning of insightful discussion, networking, and the opportunity to engage directly with the Minister on how current visa policies are impacting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in our region. This is an excellent platform to share your perspectives, ask questions, and connect with peers from across multiple chambers.

Event Overview

- **Date:** 5 September 2025
- **Time:** 09h00 – 12h30
- **Venue:** The Bryanston Country Club, Johannesburg
- **Participation Fee:** **NSBA Member companies** R 600.00
Non-Members R 1,000.00
- **Organised By:** The British Chamber of Business in Southern Africa (BCB Africa), in collaboration with the NSBA and key International Chambers.

Organising Chamber:



Partnering Chambers:



1. Background, Rationale, and Purpose

This event is a strategic intervention born out of mounting concern among our members and foreign direct investors (FDIs) regarding the significant and growing challenges related to business and family visas.

Foreign Direct Investment is a cornerstone of South Africa's economic stability and growth. For instance, the European Union is South Africa's largest trading and investment partner, and together with countries like the UK, present a substantial FDI stock of over EUR 100 billion. However, these crucial investment flows are increasingly threatened by administrative and policy hurdles within the visa and immigration system. Members report a consistent pattern of delays, rejections, and a lack of clarity, which directly impacts their ability to attract and retain key international talent, and consequently, to expand their operations. A 2023 survey by the Western Cape Government found that 78% of businesses rated the South African visa regime as 'very poor,' with 26% of respondents even considering or moving their operations abroad as a result of these challenges. The sentiment remains the same since 2023.

The efforts of the South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA), which has been actively working to improve the visa and permit system, are well acknowledged. Notable developments include initiatives to reduce backlogs and implement digital solutions. Key reforms include the planned introduction of an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system, biometric verification at ports of entry, and the development of an e-visa platform. These enhancements are aimed at streamlining immigration processes while strengthening security measures. However, challenges remain. This breakfast session is designed to offer a direct and valuable platform for leading foreign investors to raise their concerns with the Minister. The objective is not simply to voice frustrations, but to engage in a constructive and strategic dialogue that fosters mutual understanding and collaboration.

By creating a space for open communication, we can work together with government stakeholders to co-develop practical solutions that improve South Africa's investment environment. Strengthening these channels is essential to securing and attracting the foreign direct investment critical to the country's long-term economic growth and prosperity.

2. Objectives

The specific objectives for this event are to:

- **Hear Progress First-hand:** Gain direct insight into the actions taken by the Department of Home Affairs to improve visa and permit processes, including progress made to date and planned reforms.
- **Open a Direct Dialogue:** Establish a high-level, transparent communication channel between foreign investors and the Minister of Home Affairs to address pressing visa and immigration challenges.



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- **Present Investor Concerns:** Provide a structured opportunity for top FDIs to articulate their specific concerns and highlight the tangible impact of current visa policies on business operations and investment decisions.
- **Gain Policy Clarity:** Gain direct insights from the Minister on the government's plans and strategies for improving South Africa's visa and immigration systems to better support economic growth and investment.
- **Explore Collaborative Solutions:** Discuss a potential framework for ongoing cooperation between the business community and the Department of Home Affairs to streamline processes and build a more predictable and efficient system.
- **Enhance Investor Confidence:** Reassure the investment community that their concerns are being heard at the highest levels of government and that concrete steps are being taken to address them.

3. Target Audience

This event is exclusively for senior-level professionals and key decision-makers:

- Minister Dr. Leon Schreiber: The guest of honour and keynote speaker.
- British Chamber of Business in Southern Africa (BCBSA) Members: Executives with significant investments in South Africa.
- NSBA, European and International Chambers: Top representatives and Corporate Members from NSBA and the other Partnering Chambers.
- Foreign Direct Investors (FDI): High-level executives from multinational corporations with a stake in South Africa's economy.

4. Modality/Structure of Event

The event will be an intimate and focused breakfast discussion, structured to facilitate high level engagement.

- **Arrival & Breakfast (09:00 – 10:00):** Guests arrive at the Bryanston Country Club for a networking breakfast. This initial period allows for informal introductions and conversations.
- **Formal Welcome (10:15 – 10:25):** A concise welcome from the President of the BCBSA, setting the context for the Minister's address and acknowledging all participating chambers.
- **Keynote Address (10:30 – 11:00):** Minister Dr. Leon Schreiber will deliver a keynote address on the theme: "Improving South Africa's Visa and Immigration Systems to Support Economic Growth and Foreign Investment."
- **Interactive Q&A Session with Foreign Direct Investors (11:00 – 11:30):** This is the core of the event. A facilitated Q&A session will allow select foreign investors and chamber representatives to directly pose questions to the Minister, ensuring a direct and actionable dialogue.
- **Structured Networking, Closing & Departures (11:30 – 12:30):** The event concludes with a final networking opportunity, allowing attendees to follow up on the discussion and exchange contact information in a more relaxed setting.

5. Event Highlights

Direct Access: A rare and exclusive opportunity for top foreign investors to directly address their concerns with the Minister of Home Affairs.

- **Focused Dialogue:** The event's singular focus on visa policies ensures a deep, targeted, and productive discussion.
- **High-Level Attendance:** The presence of the Minister and key stakeholders from over ten international chambers guarantees a powerful and influential audience.
- **Bryanston Country Club Setting:** The professional and secure environment of the Bryanston Country Club ensures a conducive atmosphere for a high-stakes discussion.

6. Benefits of Multi-Chamber Involvement

The combined effort of multiple international chambers provides a unified and impactful voice, demonstrating the collective and widespread nature of the challenges faced. This collaboration:

- **Amplifies Influence:** It presents a united front to the government, showing that the visa issue affects investors from diverse regions, not just one country.
- **Expands the Network:** It offers attendees unparalleled networking opportunities with a broad spectrum of FDI professionals from various international backgrounds.
- **Shares Best Practices:** It allows chambers to share insights.

7. Benefits of Department of Home Affairs Involvement

The Minister's participation is a crucial step towards fostering a more collaborative and investment-friendly environment. His presence:

- **Builds Trust:** It signals to the international community that the government is serious about addressing investor concerns and improving service delivery.
- **Provides a Feedback Loop:** It allows the DHA to receive direct, unfiltered feedback from its most critical users—the foreign business community.
- **Showcases Commitment:** It provides the Minister a platform to articulate his department's reform agenda, offering a level of transparency and reassurance that is highly valued by investors.

8. Key Messages

- **Visa policy is an economic imperative:** The efficiency and predictability of visa processes are as important as other economic fundamentals in attracting and retaining FDI.
- **Collaboration is crucial:** A successful investment climate requires an ongoing partnership between government and the business community to identify and resolve systemic issues.
- **Safeguarding South Africa's Competitiveness:** Addressing the challenges encountered by foreign direct investors (such as visa delays and rejections) is



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essential to ensuring South Africa remains a competitive and attractive destination for international investment and skilled talent. Beyond capital, foreign investors bring global expertise, innovation, and best practices that contribute to local skills development. Facilitating smoother immigration processes not only strengthens investor confidence but also enables critical skills transfer—helping to upskill the local workforce, enhance productivity, and build long-term capacity across key sectors of the economy.

- Investor confidence can be restored: With transparent, targeted reforms, the Department of Home Affairs can significantly enhance South Africa’s reputation as an attractive investment destination.

9. Expected Outcomes

Upon the successful conclusion of this event, the following is anticipated:

- **A Clearer Path Forward:** A more transparent understanding of the DHA's plans to address visa challenges, including a potential timeline for reforms.
- **Strengthened Relationships:** New and reinforced relationships between foreign investors, chamber representatives, and key government officials.
- **Actionable Recommendations:** The collective identification of practical, implementable solutions to improve the visa application process.
- **Increased Media and Public Attention:** Elevated public awareness of the critical link between efficient immigration policies and sustained economic growth.

10. Strategic Partners

- British Chamber of Business in Southern Africa
- Australian Business Chamber South Africa
- Belgian Chamber of Commerce for Southern Africa
- Business Ireland
- Business Netherlands
- Indian Business Forum in Southern Africa
- Italian South African Chamber
- Nordic South African Business Association
- South African Canadian Chamber in Southern Africa
- South African Portuguese Chamber
- Spanish Chamber of Commerce

11. Sponsorship and Support

This event is a collaborative initiative, with each participating Chamber covering the cost of their own attendance and registrations, including any additional seating requirements. As such, no formal sponsorship opportunities are available.

A neutral venue has been selected to ensure accessibility and to reflect the shared, inclusive nature of the event. This approach promotes equitable participation and upholds the collaborative spirit and integrity of the gathering.

12. Conclusion

This breakfast with Minister Dr. Schreiber is a pivotal moment for the foreign investment community in South Africa.

By directly addressing the visa policy challenges that are hindering business operations, the aim is to transform a point of frustration into an opportunity for constructive partnership.

This event is a testament to the belief that through collaborative dialogue, a more predictable, supportive, and prosperous environment for foreign direct investment in South Africa can be created — while building a stronger, solutions-focused relationship with the Department of Home Affairs.

13. Event Overview and RSVP

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- **Participation Fee:**

NSBA Member companies R 600.00

Non-Members R 1,000.00

- **RSVPs and Registration:**

info@nsba.co.za

Please note that there are limited seats available.

Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Organising and Partnering Chambers

