

# The introduction of Kenya's Digital Nomad Permit - Class N

*2024 has seen an introduction of not less than two new Kenyan immigration applications that is the entry visa (ETA – Electronic Travel Authorization) and now a new work permit class about to be rolled out. The Kenyan government has brought in the Digital Nomad Work Permit under class N to add on the existing ones i.e. Class A, B, C, D, F, G, I, K, M and exempt.*



**DENNIS KIMARI**  
SENIOR  
CONSULTANT



Work permits in Kenya are issued under the provisions of section 40 of the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011 to enable foreign national (s) enter Kenya and engage in trade, prospecting, farming, business, professional employment, missionary activities or even reside in Kenya.

On 1 October 2024, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration introduced the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Regulations, 2024, which introduced the new Class N - Digital Nomad work permit.

Consequently, Kenya's President Dr. William Ruto announced Kenya's Digital Nomad Work Permit on 2 October, 2024 at the opening of the Magical Kenya Travel Expo.

Additionally, the president introduced a transit and long connection travelers electronic travel authorization that will enable transit visitors to step out of the airport and explore the beauty of their home away from home. Travelers who have long layovers can get out of the airport and explore the city's beauty such as the Nairobi national park and etc.

## The Framework

We ask ourselves, how did freelancers work from abroad before the pandemic? Usually with the help of tourist visas, sometimes work visas and occasionally freelance visas that were available in some countries. In came the Covid 19 pandemic and traditional companies started embracing remote work.

Some countries around the world saw this as an opportunity and introduced the digital nomad visa programs that allowed longer term stays. Some of the countries in Africa with the digital nomad work permit include Mauritius, Cape Verde, Seychelles and Namibia.

It's on this backdrop that the Digital Nomad work permit is being introduced in Kenya. It is meant for non-Kenyan citizens who are professionals employed by or work for companies domiciled outside of Kenya. This is part of Kenya's larger strategy to increase foreign investments, employment and tourism.

For eligibility, applicants must have the following;

- A valid passport
- Proof of remote work outside of Kenya
- An assured annual income of about USD 53,922 derived from outside Kenya
- Proof of accommodation within Kenya
- A clean criminal record from country of origin

Details from the amendment such as processing and issuance fees are yet to be given for comparison purposes with the rest of the work permits. This will be issued in due course by the immigration department and we will be the first to let you know of the developments.

Consequently, remote workers intending to work in Kenya should check on what the Kenyan tax laws have put in place as obligations to both resident and non-resident employers and employees for purposes of compliance. Appointment of a local tax representative is key and critical to guide navigate the Kenyan tax realm.

*“ If you are a digital nomad or can work from just about anywhere, and have been waiting to add the continent of Africa to your list of destinations, Kenya is the place to consider.*