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23 August 2010

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Zimbabwe: Procedures to renew a Zimbabwean passport in Canada
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

In 12 August 2010 correspondence with the Research Directorate, a Consular Official at the Embassy of Zimbabwe in Ottawa provided the following information regarding passport renewal. He stated that an individual must have all their relevant identity documents in order to renew a passport in Canada. In particular, the Consular Official stated that all passport applicants need to provide a long birth certificate, work permit or permanent resident card, Zimbabwe national identity card (for those above 16 years of age), an expired passport and a marriage certificate or divorce papers, if applicable. The individual must apply at the Embassy in person with the above documentation.

The Consular Official clarified that if an individual is under 18 years of age, he or she needs to visit the Embassy with the father or legal guardian. In a case where the father is late [deceased], the mother can come with the death certificate. In the case of a guardian, the guardian needs to bring a letter of guardianship and an affidavit. If on adoption order, the adoption order plus the short version of birth certificate needs to be produced. The adopter needs to produce a valid passport if he or she is a foreigner or a Zimbabwe identity card if he or she is Zimbabwean.

The Consular Official further stated that it costs 100 Canadian dollars to process the passport application in Canada. After the Embassy does the preliminary processing of the application form, it is given to the applicant who must submit the form to the passport office in Zimbabwe. This can either be done in person or by a close relative acting on behalf of the passport applicant. The relative should be able to prove his or her relationship with the applicant. The Consular Official further indicated that an individual can elect to have the passport processed on an urgent basis for a corresponding fee. He stated that urgent passports are issued within a week and that the longest timeframe for issuing a passport is six months. Corroborating information regarding the speed at which passports are issued could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

In addition, the Consular Official stated that if an individual over 16 years of age does not have a national identity card, then he or she must travel to Zimbabwe to get the card and finalize the passport application process. According to the Consular Official, the Embassy can issue a temporary travel document to facilitate the trip to Zimbabwe.

Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Zimbabwe. 12 August 2010. Correspondence with a consular official at the Embassy of Zimbabwe in Ottawa.

Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: AllAfrica.com, Embassy of Zimbabwe, Ottawa, Embassy of Zimbabwe, Washington, DC, Factiva, Institute for War & Peace Reporting.

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