



U.S. Mission South Africa (including U.S. Embassy Pretoria, and Consulates General in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg)

Warden Message – August 27, 2010

Public Service Strike Action Strains Public Health Care Services

The U.S. Mission in South Africa alerts U.S. citizens to the potential disruption of services resulting from the ongoing public service strike. Strike action has been concentrated around, but not limited to, public schools and hospitals, and may affect U.S. citizens utilizing or traveling near those institutions. Many public schools remain closed and access to public healthcare is blocked in most provinces. If the strike action continues for an extended period of time, there is the potential for widespread demonstrations throughout the country, which could further restrict access to hospitals and schools. Some demonstrations at public hospitals have resulted in persons being denied access into the hospitals by protestors, as well as diminished health care services at public hospitals due to reduced staff levels. As a result, U.S. citizens are urged to seek services from private hospitals during the strike if public hospitals are short-staffed or access to them is blocked by protestors. It should be noted that U.S. citizens should expect to have to pay in advance for services at private hospitals. U.S. citizens should also remain alert to reports of demonstrations interfering with traffic. The strike is not currently impacting border crossings or airports.

The U.S. Mission advises U.S. citizens to plan accordingly, remain alert, and monitor local broadcast media for updates on the strike.

The Mission reminds U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid areas of demonstration, planned demonstrations and to not cross picket lines.

As the Department of State continues to develop information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its consular information program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

The U.S. Mission urges all U.S. citizens in South Africa to register either online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> or by phone or in person directly with the Embassy in Pretoria or the Consulates General in Johannesburg, Cape Town, or Durban. Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within South Africa and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency. Please note the following contact information:

U.S. Embassy to the Republic of South Africa
877 Pretorius Street

Arcadia, Pretoria

Tel 012 431-4000 (+27 12-431-4000)

Fax 012 431-5504 (+27 12-431-5504)

<http://usembassy.state.gov/pretoria/>.

U.S. Consulate General, Johannesburg

(Covering Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, and Free State provinces)

1 Sandton Drive (cnr. of Rivonia)

Sandhurst, Johannesburg

Tel: 011-290-3000 (outside South Africa: +27 11-290-3000)

After-hours emergencies: 079-111-1684 (outside South Africa: +27 79-111-1684).

U.S. Consulate General, Cape Town

(Covering Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape provinces)

2 Reddam Avenue

Westlake, Cape Town

Tel: 021-702-7300 (outside South Africa: +27 702-7300)

After hours emergencies: 021-702-7300 (outside South Africa: +27 21-702-7300)

U.S. Consulate General, Durban

(Covering KwaZulu-Natal Province)

Old Mutual Building, 31st floor

303 West Street

Tel 031 305-7600 (+27 31-305-7600)

After hours emergencies: 079-111-1445 (outside South Africa: +27 079-111-1445).