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TO : ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES
ASYLUM SEEKER AND REFUGEE STAKEHOLDERS

**RE : THE DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF HOME AFFAIRS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CAPE TOWN REFUGEE
RECEPTION OFFICE (“CTRRO”)**

1. I have consulted pursuant to the order of the Supreme Court of Appeal in the matter of the Minister of Home Affairs v Scalabrini Centre, with relevant interested stakeholders and organisations representing the interests of refugees (“Refugee Stakeholders”) in relation to the future of the CTRRO. This consultation was held on 5 December 2013 pursuant to an invitation for submissions. I thereafter consulted the Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs (“SCRA”) on 27 January 2014, and have since received their submissions. After due and careful consideration of both the written and oral submissions of the Refugee Stakeholders, as well as the submissions made by SCRA, I have come to the following decision:

The CTRRO is to remain closed and the Cape Town Temporary Refugee Facility ("CTTRF") situated at Customs House, Lower Heerengracht, Foreshore, Cape Town will continue not to accept applications for asylum in respect of any person who did not apply for asylum at the CTRRO on or before 30 June 2012, and the CTTRF is to be closed completely upon finalisation of the applications referred to below.

2. The process of winding down the operations and functions of the CTRRO will continue to be conducted at the CTTRF. The following services will be provided at the CTTRF:
 - 2.1 The finalisation of all existing applications lodged by asylum seekers on or before 30 June 2012 at the CTRRO, including the extension of their section 22 permits, pending the finalisation of their applications;
 - 2.2 The granting of limited once off extensions of no fewer than 6 months of section 22 permits to the holders of those permits who applied for them at a Refugee Reception Office ("RRO") other than the CTRRO, subject to the express condition that they attend in future at the RRO at which they originally applied for asylum;
 - 2.3 The CTTRF will entertain applications for the transfer to the CTTRF of the files of those who applied for asylum at a RRO

other than the CTRRO, in exceptional circumstances only and on a case-by-case basis whilst the CTTRF is still in the process of winding down.

3. The holders of section 24 permits may continue to submit their applications for refugee identity and travel documents at the Cape Town Regional Office of the Department of Home Affairs, Barrack Street, Cape Town.
4. All new asylum seekers in South Africa, including those who were in the Western Cape after 30 June 2012 and who have not presented themselves for processing at a RRO in South Africa, must attend the RRO at Musina, Pretoria or Durban for the processing of their applications for asylum.
5. The reasons for my decision will be provided by no later than Friday, 7 February 2014.



Mkuseli Apleni

Director-General: Home Affairs

31 January 2014