

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 5 November 2013 11:16 PM
To: Standard Consultation
Subject: Consultation

Hi

Thank you for allowing us to air our opinions.

Firstly I would like to say that Zimbabwe should be added to the list of countries exempted from writing an English Language Test. It is know worldwide that according to current statistics Zimbabwean education is ranked amongst the best in Africa (number one the last time I checked) and worldwide. Zimbabwean education is solely based on English with all classes conducted in English from Kindergarten to University and English is the national language therefore Zimbabweans learn english from BIRTH. It comes as a surprise to me to see that South Africa is exempted and Zimbabwe is not because frankly speaking majority of English teachers in South Africa are Zimbabweans or have done studies in Zimbabwe, to me it more of politics than facts or statistics that has resulted in Zimbabwe not making it on the list of countries exempted from writing English test.

If you don't believe me I invite you to conduct a survey here in Australia about Zimbabweans and their english proficiency, ask any ordinary Australian who works with a Zimbabwean and they will tell you there is nothing wrong with our English be it written or verbal. Every time I tell my Australian mates that I have to write an English Test, they usually say "Why, there is nothing wrong with your English" and one workmate said to me that "that's bordering on the lines of discrimination because your english is excellent".

If that's not enough, I would suggest you do a survey in colleges and universities regarding Zimbabweans' English proficiency in Australia and I can guarantee you that the results will advocate for Zimbabweans to be exempted from writing the English test. Same results will be obtained if similar studies were to be conducted in any English speaking country where Zimbabweans work and study.

Secondly I think the current requirements of a 7 in all the bands of IELTS is unfair because I can tell you right now that majority of Australians born and bred here will not pass that test with 7 in each band and I invite you to do an experiment on this and my opinion will be validated. I would suggest the requirements to state that one has to obtain an overall score of 7 with no band below 6.5, just to make fair. Truly speaking a lot of factors come into play when people write those tests (stress, anxiety and panicking) and it does not necessary reflect on ones english proficiency at all and the factor that someone has obtained a degree in Australia done in English should also be considered.

Alternatively the requirements could state that one has to have:

1. Completed a degree in Australia
2. Obtain an overall score of 7 with no bands less than 6.5

or

If you have completed your degree oversea, then one has to obtain a 7 in all bands of IELTS

I also think that results from multiple sittings obtained with six months should be used for registration because

at any learning institute students are either given a supplement or allowed to rewrite the failed units.

Personally I feel that English tests have little bearing on public safety and more to do with economical benefits for the government and the institutes involved hence the fight from these sectors to maintain these current requirements for registration.

Kind regards

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