

FOREIGNER'S GUIDE TO PURCHASING A MOTORCYCLE IN SOUTH AFRICA (JOHANNESBURG) AND REGISTERING IT IN THEIR OWN NAME

This information was gathered on August 2014 and is best intended for tourists/foreigners looking to buy a motorcycle in Johannesburg (I went through this process in order to buy a bike for travelling around Africa).

As a foreigner, there are 2 options for you to purchase a vehicle in South Africa :

1. Purchase a vehicle and register it in your local friend's name (If you have such a friend!)
2. Purchase a vehicle and register it in your own name.

The first option is the easiest one and is recommended for those who encounter problems and are unable to register the vehicle in their own name (for any reason).

After registering the vehicle at the traffic department (your local friend will know how to do so), all you will need is a letter from your friend (the legal owner of the vehicle) granting you permission to drive the vehicle (or ride the bike). The letter must be signed by the police (Affidavit).

If you intend to cross borders with the vehicle you must have the affidavit from the police.

Registering a vehicle in your name

In order to be able to register a vehicle in your name you must apply for a Traffic Registry Number (TRN). (See below)

After acquiring your TRN you will be able to go to a dealership and purchase a vehicle with the following papers :

- **TRN**
- **Proof of residency**
- Copy of your passport
- Copy of your driver's license
- Copy of your international driver's license

Once you have purchased the vehicle – all that remains is to return to the Traffic Department with the old vehicle registration paper and be issued a new one under your name. (That would be the final stage of the process and is very straightforward).

Applying for a TRN

The only place to properly apply for a TRN in Johannesburg is the Traffic Department in RANDBURG ! Other traffic departments might issue TRNs as well but it could take you up to 6 weeks to be issued one and they will drive you mad doing so.

In order to be able to apply for a TRN in the Randburg Traffic Department you must prove to them that you reside in Randburg. If you have proof of residency from an area outside of Randburg they will turn you down !

Requirements :

1. Application form – acquired at the traffic department.
2. 2 passport photos
3. Copy of passport
4. Copy of driver's license
5. Sworn police affidavit regarding your employment.
(I was travelling so declared myself to be unemployed – saved a lot of trouble)
(Just visit the nearest police station and ask for an affidavit... easy)
6. **PROOF OF RESIDENCY (LEASE AGREEMENT) + PROOF OF PAYMENT**
7. **VISA / STAMP**

Proof of residency

I stayed at a backpackers in Randburg just to get the proof of residency but the one they issued me was not sufficient and I was requested by the traffic department to show the lease agreement. In addition to the lease agreement you must prove the payment you made using an invoice (a receipt is not accepted) .(and for some reason it has to be for 6 months – no idea why)

Both the proof of residency and the proof of payment I was given by the Hostel/Backpackers were not accepted so I went about and created my own documents.

I'm attaching these documents in a Word format so anyone can download them and use them for their own good. There is absolutely no point in checking in to a hotel in Randburg and running after lease agreements and invoices because the ones they will give you will probably be insufficient.

If you use the documents I'm attaching just fill in your details and make sure the arrival and departure date are 6 months apart !

The permit I had in my passport was not valid for 6 months but they paid no attention to that . (No worries). These documents were accepted without any problems when I handed them in.

VISA / STAMP issue

If you are tourist like me, you either have a visa in your passport or a stamp granting you permission to visit the country for a certain amount of days .

The visa will look something like this (Not too sure because I did not need one !)



Stamp granting permission to visit the country for x days (Usually 90 days)

I received this when entering South Africa.



If you have a VISA, which is one of the main requirements for getting the TRN, it's pretty straight forward and you won't get any trouble (lucky you!)

If you have a STAMP – I hope this information will be of help to you and hopefully it won't take you the 3 weeks it took me to acquire the TRN :

Dealing with the STAMP issue

In general, traffic departments throughout Johannesburg will deny your application for a TRN if you have a stamp and not a visa – that is why you must go to the Randburg Traffic Department.

Upon entering the main office you will see the information desk in front and to the left will be the counter that deals with the TRN's.

Beware of the clerks at that counter !!!! – when I arrived on Monday to verify that all my documents would be sufficient for applying for the TRN on Wednesday, I was given a positive answer and told to come back on Wednesday. The stamp I had in the passport was also confirmed to be sufficient.

Coming back on Wednesday morning I was refused to apply for the TRN with the argument that the stamp is not accepted and I need a visa. When I pointed out to the supervisor the clerk that 2 days ago had confirmed to me that the stamp is sufficient, the clerk burst out and shouted that he has never before seen me and has no idea what I am talking about !!

So what you should do :

Don't waste your time on the lying clerks and go directly to the supervisors !

The supervisor that helped me is called **Godfrey** and although he managed to eventually get me the TRN it took a long time and was confirmed only after he spoke to a higher ranked supervisor called **Disebo** (woman). ASK TO SPEAK TO THEM DIRECTLY ! (They both have their own offices, one next to the other).

I was told by Disebo to bring the invoice of the motorcycle along with a confirmation from the dealership that I had actually bought the bike – then I would be granted the TRN.

I did that and 2 days later the TRN was in my hands .

Godfrey's phone number is 083 380 3959 (August 2014)

General Information

The Randburg traffic department accepts TRN applications only on Wednesday mornings (between 7:30 and 10:30 - there is a long queue so try be there at around 7:00).

Do yourself a favor and come in a few days before Wednesday, calmly fill out an application form and verify that all your papers are ok and are acceptable (if they won't be accepted you'll have to wait another week).

The TRN looks like this :

RNC(4)(2003/10) RNC

Republic of South Africa  **Republiek van Suid-Afrika**

TRAFFIC REGISTER NUMBER CERTIFICATE
(National Road Traffic Act, 1996)

VERKEERSREGISTERNOMMERSERTIFIKAAT
(Nasionale Padverkeerswet, 1996)

Registering authority: **Johannesburg** Registrasie-owerheid

Traffic register number: [REDACTED] Verkeersregister-nommer

Name: [REDACTED] Naam

Postal address: **477 JAN SMUTS AVE** Posadres
RANDBURG

Street address: **477 JAN SMUTS AVE** Straatadres
RANDBURG

Address where notices must be served: **Postal Address** Adres waar kennis-gewings beteken moet word

Control number: [REDACTED] Beheernommer

Issue number: **01** Uitreikingsnommer

Date of issue: **2014-09-03** Datum van uitreiking

RECEIPT **KWITANSIE**

Receipt number: [REDACTED] Kwitansienommer

Transaction: [REDACTED] Transaksie

In respect of: [REDACTED] Ten opsigte van

Total amount received: **R0.00** Totale bedrag ontvang

Date: [REDACTED] Datum

Received by: [Signature] Ontvang deur

Method of payment: [REDACTED] Metode van betaling

Number: [REDACTED] Nommer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION **BELANGRIKE INLIGTING**

1. This certificate is deemed to be the identity document of the mentioned entity for purposes of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No 93 of 1996). 1. Hierdie sertifikaat word geag die identiteitsdokument van die genoemde entiteit te wees vir doeleindes van die Nasionale Padverkeerswet, 1996 (Wet Nr 93 van 1996).

2. This certificate must be kept safe and be produced where acceptable identification is required in terms of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996. 2. Hierdie sertifikaat moet bewaar word en voorgelê word waar aanvaarbare identifikasie ingevolge die Nasionale Padverkeerswet, 1996 verlang word.

4024 2014-09-03 BC [REDACTED]

ISSUED WITHOUT ANY ALTERATIONS OR ERASURES **UITGEREIK SONDER ENIGE VERANDERINGS OF UITKRAPPINGS**

Step by step summary :

1

- Gather documents required for the TRN and purchase of vehicle. (Passport copies, photos, licenses etc.)

2

- Fill out the attached Residency and Proof of Payment papers.

3

- Go to the Randburg traffic department and fill out an application form for a Traffic Registry Number (TRN).

4

- Once succeeding with all of the above, ask to speak to one of the supervisors of the Traffic Department (Preferably Disebo but also Godffrey).
- Ask them for help in applying for the TRN and verify that the Visa/Stamp you have in your passport is sufficient. Inquire about purchasing the vehicle before applying for the TRN (I was told to do so and return with proof from the dealership – then I was granted the TRN).
- Once confirmed – hopefully one of the supervisors will take all your papers. Either that or you will have to hand them in yourself at the counter on Wednesday morning .
- If all goes well you should receive your TRN on Friday.

5

- After acquiring the TRN – if you have not yet purchased the vehicle, go and do so.

6

- Return to the traffic department with the old vehicle registration paper and get a new one under your name.
- (If you intend to cross borders with the vehicle – make a photocopy of the registration paper and have it verified and stamped by the police. Make several copies !!)

7

- ENJOY THE RIDE