

Agencies advised to warn customers of new rules

BY DOMINIC WARDALL

TRAVEL agents and tourism businesses are being warned to advise their customers of the implications of not applying for unabridged birth certificates when travelling to or from South Africa with children beyond June 1. This is to prevent cancellations and disruptions if ongoing attempts to delay the new start date are unsuccessful.

The Association of Southern African Travel Agents made a fresh appeal for a moratorium and review of the new Immigration Act last month. In its appeal, ASATA revealed Tourism Minister Derek Hanekom had approached Home Affairs to request a year-long stay on

the new regulations.

But Home Affairs officials have so far remained unmoved and, just six weeks before the implementation of the unabridged birth certificate requirement, ASATA conceded: "Despite a recent meeting between Deputy Home Affairs Minister Fatima Chohan and travel and tourism associations in South Africa represented by umbrella body, the Tourism Business Council of South Africa, all indications are that the 12-month moratorium on the implementation of the impending immigration regulations will not be passed."

ASATA Chief Executive Officer, Otto de Vries, cur-

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