



Embassy of the United States of America

Maputo · Mozambique



American Citizens eNewsletter

DECEMBER 2010

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EMBASSY CLOSURES

The Embassy will be closed **Friday, December 24th** for Christmas Day, and **Friday, December 31st** for New Year's.



In the event of an emergency involving a U.S. citizen, please contact the Consular Section immediately at 21 49 2797 x3439 or 21 49 0723 during non business hours. Please remember that in case of an emergency, no matter what day or hours, there is always someone available to assist you.

NEW FEE FOR VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

ESTA allows non-U.S. citizen travelers going to the U.S. on the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to obtain advance authorization for boarding an aircraft to travel to the U.S. This means no need to visit the Embassy for visa interviews, no filling of long applications and no long waits at the Embassy.

A new fee of \$4 will recover the costs incurred by CBP of providing and administering the ESTA system and is in addition to the mandatory \$10 travel promotion fee established by the Travel Promotion Act of 2009. The total fee for a new or renewed ESTA will be \$14.

All payments for electronic travel authorization applications must be made by credit card or debit card when applying for or renewing an ESTA. The ESTA system currently accepts only the following credit/debit cards: MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover. Your application will not be submitted for processing until all payment information is received.

For a complete list of countries that are eligible for visa waiver visit the website below. Keep in mind Mozambique is not on the list.
<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

CONSULAR OFFICER TRIP

The Consular Officer will be travelling to a conference and will not be available from Monday, November 29, to Friday, December 3rd. All U.S. Citizen Service appointments will resume Monday, December 6th. In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please call the numbers listed above.

GOVERNMENTS, ACTIVISTS ELEVATE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Officials attending major international gatherings have vowed to turn anti-corruption commitments into action as the stakes in the global fight against bribery, graft and embezzlement have grown greater.

The Group of 20 (G20) major economies at the November leaders' meeting in Seoul, South Korea, endorsed an [anti-corruption action plan](#), which calls for effective implementation of the U.N. Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), enforcement of laws against foreign bribery and other efforts.

Governments have made much progress against corruption by adopting international conventions, by passing national laws and by establishing anti-corruption bodies. But in Seoul a broad and representative group of nations decided to intensify the fight through peer pressure and other means, said anti-corruption activists gathered in Bangkok at the November International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC), which coincided with the G20 summit.

With the advance of globalization, corruption has "infected" public life, business and the international arena more than ever. The overall effects are hampered economic development, weakened democratic institutions and a growing culture of impunity. Together, they erode public trust in governments.

Some of the greatest risks of bribery and graft are still linked to development assistance worth billions of dollars a year and multinational corporations' business dealings worth many times more, according to experts.

But multinational development banks, with the World Bank in the lead, have made great strides in recent years to clean up their practices by debarring private-sector contractors found guilty of bribery related to bank projects. Earlier in 2010, the World Bank and four other development banks launched a "cross-debarment initiative," under which a contractor blacklisted by one of the banks can be sanctioned by the others.

Read more at: <http://www.america.gov/st/business-english/2010/November/20101124124246jezrdna2.991885e-02.html>

RESSANO GARCIA BORDER CROSSING INFORMATION

The border between Mozambique, Ressano Garcia and South Africa, Lebombo is scheduled to remain open 24 hours a day.

Mozambican and South African border officials would like to remind all travelers of the following:

Due to the volumes and limitations of infrastructure and human resources, queues and congestion are still expected so travelers are requested to be patient and to prepare for this eventuality.

Mozambican traffic officials would like to remind everyone that every vehicle must carry a reflective vest and two reflective red triangles.

Please also do not use the runners at the border post who offer to speed your thoroughfare and jump the immigration queues for a fee. This makes you party to fraud and corruption and undermines the efforts of the relevant government departments to stamp out corruption and provide an effective service.

There are many individuals working on both sides of the border who are passing themselves off as government officials and who offer to complete documentation on behalf of travelers for a fee. These individuals are fraudsters and should be avoided categorically.

For any emergencies in South Africa on the N4 road, please call the TRAC emergency road assistance numbers at, **0800 Trac N4 or 0800 8722 64.**