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PRESS RELEASE

Mozambique Citizen Sentenced to 2 ½ Years in Prison

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 09, 2006

Press Office: 202-712-4320

Public Information: 202-712-4810

www.usaid.gov

Washington, D.C. – The Inspector General for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Donald Gambatesa, announced today that Muftar Ali, a citizen of Mozambique, was sentenced to serve a term of 2 ½ years in a medium security federal prison facility and ordered to make restitution payments in the amount of \$214,000 to the United States Government.

The sentence was imposed in the United States District Court, in Charleston, South Carolina, on May 23, 2006, by the Honorable Patrick Michael Duffy, based on a previous guilty plea entered by Ali on December 29, 2005.

The guilty plea and subsequent sentence resulted from Ali's theft of approximately \$200,000 during a two-year period from 2003 to 2005 when he worked as a cashier for both the USAID Mission and the American Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique.

The case against Ali was jointly investigated by the Offices of Inspectors General for USAID and the Department of State (DOS), with key support provided by the DOS Diplomatic Security Service.

The prosecution was undertaken in South Carolina because the DOS Financial Services Center, which provides accounting services for both the embassy and the mission victimized by Ali, is located in Charleston, South Carolina.

Upon learning of the sentence handed down in this case, USAID Inspector General Donald Gambatesa stated that this investigation is a fine example of law enforcement organizations working together to safeguard U.S. taxpayer dollars and the sentence is a strong message that this type of illegal activity will be severely sanctioned.