



# Embassy of the United States of America

Maputo · Mozambique



## American Citizens e-Newsletter

February 2008

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American Citizen Services:  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

In the event of an emergency  
involving an American citizen,  
please call +258 21 49 0723

### NEW COUNTRY SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR MOZAMBIQUE

Consular Information Sheets are now called Country Specific Information (CSI). CSIs are available for every country of the world. They include such information as location of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the subject country, unusual immigration practices, health conditions, minor political disturbances, unusual currency and entry regulations, and crime and security information. If an unstable condition exists in a country that is not severe enough to warrant a Travel Warning, a description of the condition(s) may be included under an optional section entitled "Safety/Security." On limited occasions, we also restate in this section any U.S. Embassy advice given to official employees. CSIs generally do not include advice, but present information in a factual manner so the traveler can make his or her own decisions concerning travel to a particular country. CSIs are reviewed approximately every six months.

A new CSI for Mozambique was released on January 14, 2008, and is available online at [travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_976.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_976.html)

### REGISTER TO VOTE

Are you registered to vote? With the focus now squarely on the 2008 Presidential elections, primary season is heating up. Upcoming primaries are scheduled for:

February 2: Maine caucus

February 5: Super Tuesday: Primaries and caucuses held for both parties in 18 states, plus two Democratic-only caucuses

The Embassy can assist in you in registering from abroad. You can reach our voting unit by e-mailing [VoteMaputo@state.gov](mailto:VoteMaputo@state.gov). Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and a copy of the U.S. Government's voting assistance guide, which provides instructions for completing the form can be found at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

Many states now send absentee ballots by email. Check [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for state-specific information.

### AVIAN INFLUENZA

Without a vaccine to guard against pandemic influenza, the best safeguard for your health and safety is information and preparation. A fact sheet, answer to frequently asked questions and information on sheltering in place in the event of an Avian Influenza, or "bird flu" pandemic is available at:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health\\_1181.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1181.html)

### EMBASSY CLOSURES

The U.S. Embassy will be closed February 4th (Mozambican Heroes' Day) and February 18th (U.S. Presidents' Day).

The Consular Section will be closed Friday, February 1 for internal meetings.

## MISLEADING CLAIMS OF MEDICARE ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE THE U.S.

In most situations, Medicare won't pay for health care or supplies you receive outside the U.S. Advertising by some private medical insurance companies may give the false impression that by using a U.S. billing address, these companies can use Medicare payments for medical services provided outside the United States. There are a very limited number of circumstances in which Medicare may reimburse for emergency treatment outside the U.S., but all must be within very close proximity to the United States, e.g. covered treatment on board a cruise ship must be when the ship is no further than six hours away from a U.S. port. Detailed information about Medicare coverage outside the U.S. can be found at [www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11037.pdf](http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11037.pdf).

### CHANGE IN DEPARTURE TAX

As of February 1, 2008 the departure tax from all airports in Mozambique will increase. The tax is still payable in U.S. dollars or meticalis.

The new rates are:

Domestic flights: \$10 (previously \$8)  
Regional/International: \$30 (previously \$20)

### DOORS TO DIPLOMACY

The U. S. Department of State sponsors the "Doors to Diplomacy" educational challenge to encourage middle and high school students around the world to produce web projects teaching others about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy. Each student team member of the winning "Doors to Diplomacy" Award team receives a \$2,000 scholarship, and the winning coaches' schools each receive a \$500 cash award. For more information go to [www.globalschoolnet.org/gsndoors/](http://www.globalschoolnet.org/gsndoors/)

### CELEBRATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

In honor of African-American History Month, the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section will screen four films throughout the month. All films are in English and entrance is free. The Public Affairs Section is located at 542 Avenida Mao Tse Tung (corner of Mao Tse Tung and Kin Il Sung) in Maputo.

Thursday, February 7, 3 p.m.	Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream"
Thursday, February 14, 3 p.m.	Their Eyes Were Watching God
Thursday, February 21, 3 p.m.	The Rosa Parks Story
Thursday, February 28, 3 p.m.	A Soldier's Story

Following the film on the 21st, Dr. Sheila Walker, Executive Director of NGO "Afrodiaspora, Inc." will be speaking on the African Diaspora in the U.S. Her speech will start at approximately 4:30pm.

### CHANGES TO PASSPORT REGULATIONS

#### Passports for Minors

New regulations governing issuance of U.S. passports to minors go into effect on February 1, 2008. The new rule extends the two-parent consent and personal appearance requirements to all minors under the age of 16. This means that 14- and 15 year-olds must also now comply with the same rules that previously applied to minors under the age 14. Most significantly, a minor under age 16 MUST appear with BOTH parents when submitting an application for a passport. The appearance of both parents cannot be waived, (although there is provision, in certain circumstances, for one parent to present a notarized letter of authorization, together with one attending parent).

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## Passport Fees

Beginning February 1, 2008, the Department of State will institute a new fee schedule for passport services. At this time applicants will also have the option of ordering a new Passport Card, a low cost, limited use (land and sea only) alternative to the Passport Book designed for those living along the border.

Fees are being adjusted to cover the cost of providing efficient and secure passport services including infrastructure, technology and staff. The Passport Execution fee collected by passport acceptance centers and U.S. Consular Sections abroad is reduced from \$30 to \$25.

	Current Passport Application Fee	Current Total Fee	New Passport Application Fee	New Execution Fee	New Total Fee
Passport Book Adult	\$67	\$97	\$75	\$25	\$100
Passport Book Child	\$52	\$82	\$60	\$25	\$85
Passport Card Adult	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	\$20	\$25	\$45
Passport Card Child	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	\$10	\$25	\$35
Adult Passport Renewal	\$67	\$67	\$75	Not Applicable	\$75

## LEAVING MOZAMBIQUE?

If you are leaving Mozambique, and you formally registered your stay with the U.S. Embassy, please be sure to “cancel” your registration when you leave. You can deregister by visiting the [travelregistration.state.gov](http://travelregistration.state.gov) site. If you are continuing your stay in Mozambique and have new contact information, or otherwise need to update your registration, please let us know by emailing us at [ConsularMaputo@state.gov](mailto:ConsularMaputo@state.gov).

## U.S. TAX INFORMATION

If you are eager to file your taxes, the IRS homepage, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), provides useful information for taxpayers and should be your first stop for tax **questions** and forms. In particular, the IRS Publication 54, [Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad](#) is an invaluable resource for anyone living overseas or with income from a foreign source.

## VOTING: AMERICAN COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) provides links to the global headquarters websites of overseas civic and political groups. We encourage you to view their respective sites to see what services each group offers. Please visit <http://www.fvap.gov/links/ocitlinks.html>

## EXPAT NEWSLETTER

Club of Mozambique sponsors *Living in Maputo (LM)*, a free e-newsletter with community news and events for the international community in Mozambique. *LM* is published twice a month in English. To subscribe, email [lmsubscribe@clubofMozambique.com](mailto:lmsubscribe@clubofMozambique.com).