



Embassy of the United States of America

Maputo · Mozambique



American Citizens eNewsletter

November 2008

U.S. Embassy
Av. Kenneth Kaunda, 193
Maputo, Mozambique

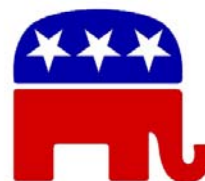
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American Citizen Services:
Monday, Wednesday &
Friday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PARTY

Come out to cheer for your candidate and celebrate democracy no matter who wins from 7 pm to midnight Tuesday, November 4 in Maputo. Mock voting, candidates' official biography film showings, a panel discussion, and a student-led debate are all part of the fun. All American citizens are welcome but you'll need an invitation at the entrance. If you would like to attend, please email consularmaputo@state.gov by 5 p.m. November 3rd. Please make "election party" the subject line and make sure you include your full name in the email.



EMBASSY CLOSURES

The Consular Section will be closed **Thursday, November 18th** for internal meetings.

The Embassy will be closed Tuesday, **November 11th** for Veterans' Day and Thursday, **November 27th** for Thanksgiving.



COLLEGE STUDENTS — APPLY FOR A STATE DEPARTMENT SUMMER 2009 INTERNSHIP

What could a student internship mean to you at the U.S. Department of State? It's an opportunity for you to get an inside look at the different types of positions and responsibilities available in foreign affairs. You can also gain valuable work experience that will help you in virtually every endeavor, whether you choose to work in government or in the private sector.

At the U.S. Department of State, we like to say we're the face of America to the world. As an intern, you will be, too. Some of our students work in Washington, DC, and others have the opportunity to work at an embassy overseas. Positions are both paid and unpaid, and many are available during spring, summer or fall. U.S. citizens who are still in college and have completed at least 60 credit hours may apply for a Summer 2009 internship.

The application deadline is November 1, 2008. Visit careers.state.gov/students/programs.html#SIP for details.

PLAN YOUR RETIREMENT

A large number of Americans are retiring now. The figures are expected to steadily increase until 2010—when the majority of the baby boomers reach retirement age. Whether you are about to retire or not, it is important to plan for it. Here are some important reminders from the Social Security Administration (SSA), the agency which provides retirement benefits.



The SSA recently launched the online Retirement Estimator, located at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

The Retirement Estimator provides immediate and personalized benefit estimates online to help people plan for their retirement. Deciding when to retire is one of the most important and difficult decisions many people face in their career. The Retirement Estimator provides highly accurate benefit estimates for those nearing retirement age. For younger workers, it provides valuable information to help them plan and save for their retirement.

The Retirement Estimator is convenient. Since the estimate is tied to an individual's actual Social Security earnings record, it eliminates the need to manually key in years of earnings information. Because it is interactive, the Retirement Estimator allows users to compare different options by changing their “stop work” dates or expected future earnings.



Just as important, the Retirement Estimator is secure. The only thing it provides online is retirement benefit estimates. It does not show the earnings record information on which the final benefit estimate was calculated, nor does it reveal other personal information.

To use the Retirement Estimator, users must enter identifying information about themselves, including first and last names, date of birth, social security number, place of birth and mother's maiden name, which must match SSA records. The Retirement Estimator also has a “blocking” feature that lets concerned individuals prevent anyone from estimating their retirement benefit.

In conjunction with the Retirement Estimator, SSA launched a new fact sheet, “When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits.” This fact sheet provides important information people should consider when deciding at what age to start receiving their Social Security retirement benefits. It is intended to help the public make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits based on their individual and family circumstances. The fact sheet is located at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html.

FROM THE EMBASSY'S REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER

Recently a popular café in an upscale neighborhood in Maputo was robbed at gunpoint. The robbers were well organized and quickly took control of the entrances and exits to the building. They also robbed a small grocery store in the same building. At both locations the robbers took the contents of the cash register and forced patrons to hand over money and valuables. No resistance was offered by guards or patrons. No shots were fired and there were no injuries.

Unfortunately, armed robbery of banks, restaurants, and other businesses is relatively common in Maputo and other cities in Mozambique. Many other restaurants and businesses in desirable neighborhoods have also been robbed at gunpoint. As in previous incidents, the local Police were slow to respond. The contract guards who were present were ineffective in deterring the crime and then were unable to respond in any meaningful way. The robbers fled the scene in a vehicle they stole from one of the patrons.

The U.S. Embassy recommends you practice the following personal protective measures:

- Be aware of your surroundings and that criminals target any location that is perceived to have accessible cash, valuables, or weapons. This includes restaurants, night-clubs, and banks.
- Know that criminal activity increases after dark.
- If asked to hand over money, cell-phones, jewelry, watches, money, etc. DO THIS WITHOUT RESISTANCE.
- If a crime is in progress, do not draw the criminals' attention to yourself.
- Once criminal activity begins do not make eye contact with criminals.
- If possible, passively resist. Do not allow yourself to be moved by criminals from a crime scene to any other location.

If you are the victim of a crime, please report it to the Consular Section at 21 49 2797 x3439.

OVERSEAS SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL INVITATION

Dear Members of the American Business and International NGO Community:

The OSAC – Moçambique council and the U.S. Embassy requests the pleasure of your company at our first OSAC-Moçambique council meeting on Thursday 6th November from 10:00 am to noon. It will be held in the 4th floor conference room at USAID, JAT Complex, Rua 1231, Nr. 41, Barrio Central, Maputo.

I strongly encourage your organization to send a representative to the meeting. Please note that the representatives at this meeting do not have to be American Citizens. We will have Mr. Tony Adams from Arkhe Security as a guest speaker. Mr. Adams has been an expert in Africa on security issues since 1995.

To assist with the planning and entrance arrangements please email your confirmations to osacmoc@gmail.com. If you need directions please call Filipa on +258 823 048 800.

Looking forward to your presence,
Clay Glockzin
President