

Embassy of the United States of America

Maputo · Mozambique



American Citizens e-Newsletter May 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

EMBASSY CLOSURES

The U.S. Embassy will be **closed** Wednesday, **June 25th** (Mozambican Independence Day).

The Consular Section will be **closed** the week of **June 23 to June 27**. Please request any non-emergency services at another time. Please call 21 49 2797 x3439 in the event of an emergency involving an American citizen during office hours.

Please note the Consular Section will be operating minimally during the month of **August** due to staffing issues. Please try to schedule any requests for non-emergency services in July or September, if possible. American Citizen Service non-emergency hours will be 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in August. Normal ACS hours will resume as of September 3rd.

NOTE FROM THE CHARGÉ

In the first week of June, I will be leading a delegation from our Mission to attend the HIV/AIDS Implementers Meeting in Kampala, Uganda along with 1,700 other people from around the world. It is an opportunity, along with our partners in Mozambique, to recognize the rapid expansion of HIV/AIDS programs worldwide and in this country. The meeting's theme is "Scaling Up Through Partnerships: Overcoming Obstacles to Implementation."

The attendees represent governments, non-governmental organizations, multilateral organizations, the private sector, the media, and groups of people living with HIV/AIDS. Through presentations, dialogue and networking, participants will identify barriers and share information that will directly impact HIV/AIDS program implementation in the coming years.

The U.S. government is spending \$228 million on PEPFAR in Mozambique this year alone. This is an unprecedented amount of spending since PEPFAR began and represents the commitment of the U.S. government and its people to work with the government of Mozambique and Mozambicans to fight HIV/AIDS. The meeting is sponsored not only by PEPFAR but also the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; UNAIDS; UNICEF; the World Bank; the World Health Organization; and the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS.

To learn more about this meeting, please visit www.hivimplementers.org. I'm looking forward to an excellent trip and anticipate that our team from Mozambique, including Embassy, NGO, and Mozambican Government personnel, all return energized and recommitted to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Mozambique.



Todd Chapman
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

NEW ONLINE PASSPORT APPLICATION WIZARD SPEEDS THE PASSPORT PROCESS

You can help us help you speed the passport process when you apply for your next passport—either in person or by mail—by using the Department of State's new online Passport Application Wizard. The online wizard is quick and easy—you type in the same information you would put on a normal passport application, and at the end, the wizard prints out your completed form for you. Your completed application will have a barcode generated by the wizard, which will make it possible for us to enter the data into our computers by automated scanning rather than manual data entry. The time we save in data entry means your passport is returned to you more quickly, and applicants who must apply in person will spend less time in our waiting room. The wizard also ensures that all required fields on the passport application are completed, so you know your application won't be delayed due to accidental blank fields.

The wizard is available at <https://pptform.state.gov>.



TRAVELING TO SOUTH AFRICA?

If you are traveling to South Africa, please read the Department of State's travel alert at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_3250.html.

Please monitor the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria's website for updates on the security situation at pretoria.usembassy.gov.

NEW STATE DEPARTMENT RESOURCE FOR AMERICAN STUDENTS ABROAD

The number of college students and young people studying and traveling abroad is growing rapidly. Over 200,000 U.S. college students now study abroad annually, and hundreds of thousands more travel internationally for spring break and other vacations. The Bureau of Consular Affairs has launched a new information resource for American citizen college students and young people studying and traveling internationally, designed to promote safe, smart travel.

The Students Abroad information campaign includes a new website, flyers called "go! guides" and a "Tips to Go" wallet card. Through its website at <http://studentsabroad.state.gov> we offer college students a one-stop reference for international travel.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OPPORTUNITIES

The Embassy's Public Affairs Section (PAS) is seeking U.S. citizen volunteers to facilitate its English Club intermediate session at PAS on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The English Club is free and open to all who wish to practice English with a native speaker.

PAS is also seeking U.S. citizens interested in visiting a local school to talk about the United States. If interested, please call Public Affairs Officer Kristin Kane at 21-49-19-16.

The Embassy's Public Affairs Section is located at the corner of Av. Kim Il-Sung and Av. Mao Tse Tung in Maputo.



SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

Occasionally, when a U.S. citizen resides abroad or when a Lawful Permanent Resident (i.e. a "Green Card Holder") returns to their home country, they give up their U.S. citizenship or permanent residence status. Often, they contact us to ask what they should do with their Social Security card. Our advice is to keep the card in a safe place. The Social Security Number assigned to you is yours forever. No one else will ever be assigned that number again. Furthermore, your earnings, while in the United States, are filed under your Social Security Number. Thus, when it is time to file for benefits or Medicare, you will need to provide your number. Lastly, the change in citizenship or alien status doesn't affect your earnings record. The earnings posted on your record remain on your record forever. So when it comes to filing for benefits, the credits earned as a result of those earnings will be used to determine your eligibility for benefits and payment amount.

PHISHING RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENTS

The FBI is warning people of recently reported spam e-mail purportedly from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which is actually an attempt to steal personal information. The e-mail advises the recipient that direct deposit is the fastest and easiest way to receive their economic stimulus tax rebate. The message contains a hyperlink to a fraudulent form which requests the recipient's personally identifiable information, including bank account information. To convince consumers to reply, the e-mail warns that a failure to complete the form in a timely manner will delay the issuance of the rebate check.

Please be cautious of unsolicited e-mails. It is recommended not to open e-mails from unknown senders as they often contain viruses or other malicious software. It is also recommended to avoid clicking links in e-mails received from unknown senders as this is a popular method of directing victims to phishing websites.

If you have received an e-mail similar to this, please notify the IC3 by filing a complaint at www.ic3.gov.

WHAT IS THE PASSPORT CARD AND DO I NEED IT?

On February 1, 2008, the U.S. Department of State began accepting applications for the new passport card. You may notice as you complete the new passport application form that you are asked whether you want a passport book or a card.

For Americans living in Africa, the passport book is still the required travel document.

The passport card will facilitate entry and expedite document processing at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry only when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda. The card May not be used to travel by air.



The passport card carries the same rights and privileges of the U.S. passport book and will be adjudicated to the same standards. For more information on the passport card, please visit http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html.

