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February through April 2015

LABOR AND IMMIGRATION

VISAS FOR FOREIGN CITIZENS WITH NEW RULES

The Council of Ministers approved, by way of the recently published Decree No. 108/2014, of 31 December 2014, the new legal framework governing the entry, stay and departure of foreign nationals in the country. Very significant changes have been brought on the types of visas available and their validity.

REGAZETTING OF MARITIME WORK REGULATIONS

Decree No. 50/2014, of 30 September 2014, was republished in Supplement No. 9 of Series I of the Official Gazette No. 76, dated 30 September 2014. The text initially published has ceased to be effective.

BANKING & FINANCE

NEW RULES AND CRITERIA FOR OPENING AND CLOSURE OF BANK BRANCHES APPROVED

The Bank of Mozambique approved, by way of Order No. 1/GBM/2015, of 18 February 2015, additional rules that apply to the opening of bank branches. These rules are aimed at controlling the location of the branches, with a view to ensure balanced geographic distribution among the different provinces. An interim regime for existing branches has also been adopted.

CONNECTION TO THE SINGLE ELECTRONIC PAYMENT NATIONAL NETWORK

Through Order 2/GBM/2015, of 13 March 2015, the Bank of Mozambique set forth the terms and conditions governing the connection to the Single, Common and Shared Network for National Payments (the Single National Network). One should single out the setting of deadlines for the connection and migration to the Single National Network.

BANK AGENTS ACCESS AND OPERATING RULES

By way of Order No. 3/GBM/2015, of 13 April 2015, the Bank of Mozambique approved the terms and conditions governing the hiring of bank agents. Amongst other items, it is worth highlighting the mandatory provisions that need to be included in service agreements between bank agents and the hiring institution.

INFRASTRUCTURE

PUBLICATION OF CIVIL WORKS CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS' LICENSING REGULATIONS

The Civil Works' Contractors and Consultants Licensing Regulations, approved by way of Decree No. 94/2013, of 31 December 2013, were recently republished in Supplement No. 24 of Series I of the Mozambican Official Gazette No. 104, dated 31 December 2013. The initial text published in 2014 is no longer in force.

REGULATIONS ON USE OF ROADS AND RELATED PROTECTION ZONES

By means of Decree No. 109/2014, 31 December 2014, the Council of Ministers approved the Regulations on the Use of Roads and Roads' Protection Zones. The Regulations set forth a 180-day period from the publication date for interested parties to regularize any existing infrastructures or ongoing activities as necessary in view of the scope of application of this statute.

NEW DISTRIBUTION SCHEME FOR REVENUE FROM RAILWAY AND PORT CONCESSIONS

The Council of Ministers approved, by way of the Ministerial Order No. 42/2015, of 13 February 2015, the new scheme on the allocation of revenue from rents paid by concessionaires under rail and port infrastructures concession contracts.

STATE

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE NEW MINISTRIES

By way of Presidential Orders Nos. 6/2015 and 7/2015, both of 2 March 2015, the duties and authority of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of State Administration and Civil Service were approved. In turn, through Presidential Orders Nos. 8/2015, 9/2015 and 10/2015, all of 13 March 2015, the duties and authority of the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Action and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism were enacted. Lastly, by means of Presidential Orders Nos. 11/2015, 12/2015, 13/2015 and 14/2015, all of 16 March 2015, the President of the Republic established the duties and authority of the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Ministry of Education and Human Development, the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Higher and Technical Professional Education.

APPROVAL OF THE 2015 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLAN

By way of Resolution No. 15/2015, of 30 April 2015, the Economic and Social Plan for 2015 was approved. Amongst other matters, the plan sets out the estimates of growth of the Mozambican gross internal product per business sector.

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