

LEGAL ALERT

COVID-19: MEASURES APPROVED BY THE MOZAMBICAN GOVERNMENT

Council of Ministers

10th Ordinary Session of March 24, 2020

In this context, the Mozambican Government recently approved a decree that cancels all fines and interest on arrears to be charged on top of debts resulting from the non-payment of the mandatory contributions to the National Social Security Institute by employers; this measure applies in case of full payment of the debt as well as to those that are paid in installments.

This initiative essentially aims to allow workers and their families to access social security benefits, without deprivation resulting from non-compliance of the respective obligations by the employers.

Central Bank

Extraordinary Session of the Board of Directors of March 22, 2020

Following the negative macroeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and with a view to providing liquidity in foreign currency and in national currency to support companies and families in fulfilling their commitments, the Board of Directors of the Mozambican Central Bank decided to:

- Introduce a foreign currency financing line for institutions participating in the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market, in the global amount of USD 500,000,000, for a period of nine months, starting on March 23, 2020;

- Authorize the non-constitution of additional provisions by credit institutions and financial companies, in the case of renegotiation of the terms and conditions of the loans, before their maturity, by customers affected by the pandemic.

Ministry of the Interior - National Migration Service
Instruction no. 4/SENAMI-3/NI/2020, of March 26, 2020

Following the cancellation of air transport by almost all aviation companies, thus preventing foreign citizens from being able to comply with the provisions of the Legal Framework for Foreign Citizens in Mozambique, especially with regard to leaving the country after the expiration of the respective visas, all Provincial Directorates of Migration were instructed to receive, on an exceptional basis, requests for visa extensions, in the following situations:

- Foreigners with business, visitor and tourism visas who have reached the maximum extension limit provided by law;
- Foreigners with short-term work permits, whose visas have expired;
- Foreigners who have entered the country with a border visa that, being non-extendable, has already expired, but cannot comply with the mandatory departure from the country due to the lack of air transportation.

Therefore, the following procedures must be observed:

- Visa extension application addressed to the Provincial Director of Migration where the foreigner is located, indicating the reason for the request;
- Term of responsibility or copy of the accommodation bulletin, in case they are staying in a hotel;
- Copy of the passport, including the pages containing the visa and entry stamp;
- Flight ticket canceled, specifying which airline.

In relation to foreign citizens holding Residence Permits who are out of the country, they must be allowed to renew their DIRE when they return, provided that they prove that they were unable to

return to the country before the documents expired, due to the restrictions resulting from the pandemic of COVID-19.

Supreme Court – President’s Office
Order no. 01/TS/GP/2020, of March 23, 2020

Following the need to ensure the effective implementation in the Judicial Courts of the individual and collective prevention actions being taken against the pandemic COVID-19, the Supreme Court has approved several measures, which shall be monitored by the President of each Court, among which we highlight the following:

- The hearings can only be attended by the parties, lawyers, witnesses, deponents or other participating individuals;
- The non-scheduling of trials of different processes for the same time;
- The non-simultaneous entry of the parties to the hearing rooms, except in the case of attendance to the same trial;
- The suspension of Judicial Mediation services from the Judicial Court of the City of Maputo.

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