

**Speech Delivered by the Honorable President of the
Mozambique Revenue Authority at the opening ceremony
of the Workshop on Lembombo – Ressano Garcia One
Stop Border Post held in Maputo, Mozambique on 19 and
20 JULY 2007 2007**

VIP – Hotel, Maputo, 19 - 20 July 2007

His Excellency the Minister of Finance;

His Excellency the Minister of Interior;

Her Excellency the Governor of Maputo Province;

His Excellency the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and
Industry;

Her Excellency the South African High Commissioner in Mozambique;

His Excellency the Deputy – Commissioner General SARS;

Honorable Administrator of Moamba District;

Dear Directors of the Mozambique Revenue Authority and SARS;

Honorable Representatives of the Private Sector;

Dearest Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all delegates and guests to the One Stop Border Post Workshop which starts today.

This Workshop, congregating dignitaries from both the Republic of Mozambique and South Africa is meant to reach, after deep discussions for one and half days , a consensus and terms of reference for either draft or National Legislation for both the preliminaries for SOPs and finally for the design of the future facilities for the one Stop Border Post.

I would also refer myself to the implementation of some aspects of the Mozambique Revenue Authority Strategic Plan, namely the broadening of the revenue basis, the implementation of trade facilitation mechanisms, the modernization of our organization and the training and capacity building policy which will count on the collaboration and cooperation of the participants present here, as our organization has just been created..

The Mozambique Revenue Authority is responsible for enforcing policies aimed at identification, liquidation and collection of taxes set for by Mozambican Law; it is also responsible for the control, combat and prevention of both fiscal and customs fraud

We feel honored to host this workshop in our country as this represents an enormous contribution for the Mozambique Revenue Authority in the process of establishing more One Stop Borders

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The practical implementation of the one stop border Project concept will greatly reduce the waiting times at the counters, so that our public and other service users will be able to travel and transport their goods safely

Within the scope of the SADC Trade Protocol, the Mozambique Revenue Authority has signed Memoranda of Understanding on Mutual and Administrative Assistance between customs administrations with all neighboring countries, including the Republic of South Africa

Currently, negotiations are underway with other countries which handle big loads of commercial consignments - Malawi and Zimbabwe – with aim to implement a one stop border post concept

One of this project major challenges is the need for harmonization of systems and procedures governing the processing and registration of customs documents at designated customs points.

Let me highlight that the electronic transmission of data and information is necessary for an expedite and efficient clearance of goods, as a way to ensure the smooth and strict compliance with pos-clearance audit procedures that may be imposed by Law on certain consignments

Currently, the Mozambique Revenue Authority is engaged in mobilization of financial resources necessary for the fulfillment of the activities contemplated in its Strategic Plan on Trade Facilitation, we therefore urge both our national and foreign partners to cooperate in this initiative so that we can be able to quickly implement modern and efficient systems in our borders.

I would like to finish my short intervention by expressing our commitment to translate this Project into reality within the time frame set in the consensual schedule. Let me seize this opportunity to invite our honorable guests to visit the Customs operational areas of the Mozambique Revenue Authority.

With this said, I have the honor to invite His Excellency the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Mozambique to proceed the official opening of the Workshop.

I thank you very much.

Maputo, 19 July 2007