

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR

### REFLECTION ON FOREIGN IMMIGRATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- In recent times there has been a significant entry of foreigners which seek our country for various reasons. The principle reasons for the entry of foreigners are tourism, business, work and requests for refugee status or asylum.
- With the advent of peace, Mozambique has registered one of the best rates of economic growth in the world, a fruit of the macro-economic stability which has contributed to the creation of a favourable environment for the development of private sector initiatives.
- The Government's development policy has created conditions for a large flow of investment, especially external investment, which bring with it its labour, in an international economic environment characterized by...*[Translator's note, the document is incomplete in this section]*

#### Reasons for reflection:

- This reflection document arises from the recommendation of the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Ministers on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011.
- The existence of foreigners coming from various parts of the world who establish residence in Mozambique, competing with nationals for employment opportunities.
- The use of the border visa as a means to acquire Mozambican nationality.

#### II. STRUCTURE OF THE FOREIGN POPULATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

##### Overview

Up until November 2011 there were 35,792 foreigners of various nationalities with DIREs residing in Mozambique namely:

4,355 Portuguese  
4,303 Chinese  
4,273 Congolese  
3,955 Indian

##### Other nationalities

1,697 Brazilians  
1,337 Pakistani  
1,217 Somali  
1,104 Burundians

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Other data for November 2011 indicates 13,109 foreigners requesting refugee status, of which 3,426 had obtained this status.

During the same period 10,910 citizens of various nationalities had been repatriated for illegal entry and stay in Mozambique.

#### CAUSES OF IMMIGRATION

##### **a) Economic and social**

- Unemployment which affects countries such as Ethiopia and Somalia motivates citizens of these countries to seek better conditions in our country.
- The economic and financial crisis affecting the Euro-zone.

##### **b) Political instability**

- Armed conflicts which affect DRC, Somalia and Burundi and oblige their citizens to seek refuge in our country

##### **c) Illegal mining**

- Mining exploration involved citizens from Mali, Senegal, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Guinea-Conakry, Tanzania and others.

##### **d) Religion**

- The diffusion of different religions throughout the country, involving in the mean, immigrants, largely Pakistani, Indian, Ethiopian, Malian, Nigerian, Brazilian and others.

#### III. DISTRIBUTION OF THE FOREIGN POPULATION

It is estimated that 23,128 people have immigrated for work, which corresponds to those admitted in 2012 and 2011, and represents 64.6% of the total foreign population resident in Mozambique.

Evolution of admissions for work:

- 2008 – 6,918 people
- 2009 – 9,025 people
- 2010 – 11,876 people
- Up to the end of the third quarter of 2011 11,252 foreign citizens had been registered
- The percentage of foreign citizens who work in Mozambique based on the authorization regime, or rather, by demonstrating that they have professional or scientific qualifications that Mozambicans do not have or that there are insufficient numbers of qualified Mozambicans, is extremely low.

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- In 2009 this number was 894 versus 6,400 admitted under the free contracting regime which includes the quote regime, the short term work regime and the regime of projects approved by the government.

#### **Illegal immigration for work**

- During the current year [2011] until October, throughout the country, 7,799 establishments employing 116,373 workers were visited, of these workers 5,972 were foreign of which 1,060 were illegal.

#### **Immigration for religious activities**

There are 733 religious confessions registered in Mozambique covering around 2,450 foreign citizens.

#### **IV. INSTITUTIONAL AND SYSTEMIC WEAKNESSES IN IMMIGRATION CONTROL**

- Border vulnerability;
- Lack of birth registers, especially in those registries which, for reasons of the armed conflict or natural disaster, have registers which are lost or partially or completely destroyed;
- Indiscriminate registration by civil registration brigades, posts and registry offices, in both cities and rural area, independent of age, due to poor documentation;
- Registration of births in diplomatic and consular missions of adults supposedly born in the country;
- Existence of gaps in registrations made prior to independence relative to the real situation of people's nationality;
- Lack of a legal basis to regulate the immigration of foreign citizens on religious missions in the country;
- The free contracting regime which permits the proliferation of foreign workers without adequate qualifications.

#### **V. PROPOSALS**

- Reinforcement of national sovereignty through the effective control of state borders;
- Reflection on the possibility of refining the material relative to obtaining nationality in the Constitution;
- Reflection on the possibility of creating a mechanism for linking the issuing process for applications to work, reside and undertake other activities in Mozambique;

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- Revocation of the quote system, short term work system and in general the free contracting regime.

Maputo, 28 December 2011