



## **Crossing the border from South Africa**

Lebombo Border Post (Komatipoort) to Mozambique – Ressano Garcia Border Post

### **At South African Border:**

#### **SAPS & Customs**

- At the entrance gate slow down. Here the SAPS officials might ask you for your cars registration forms and they will proceed with their verification checks. If not stopped proceed to the main building and park your vehicle.
- Have the following documents and items ready. Pen, Passports. You might be approached at this point by a tout offering you assistance and promising a speedy passage through the Mozambican border. Do not use these people; they are not official (even though it might appear that they have ID Tags...) rather do it yourself.

#### **Step 1: Immigration counter**

- Go directly to the customs desk and have your passports stamped.
- Return to your vehicle and proceed towards the Mozambique Border

### **Mozambique side (*Ressano Garcia Border*) –**

Approach the gate between the Lebombo border and Ressano Garcia border, slow down and look out for the gate guard on the Mozambican side.

Stop a little short of him so that he may write down your vehicle registration on the gate pass slip and take note of the number of occupants in the car. The guard will hand you the completed gate pass.

Proceed towards the border control building. When the border is busy a number of large trucks will be parked up the road in a line. Do not park behind the trucks, pass them on the left or right and park on the left as close to the passport control building as possible

**Beware!** You MIGHT be approached by touts asking for your gate pass. **DO NOT GIVE THEM THE GATE PASS OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS.** They will offer you passport assistance, the opportunity to change money and generally all types of facilitation services. **Ignore all of these offers and courteously decline the services.** They will charge you for completing the simple border formalities (they pretend to be officials and wear reflective vests and they might give you your passports without having them stamped correctly) **if you passport is not stamped the fine is 2000 Metical per person per day for the period you are in the country!**

**Step 1: Customs / "Vehicular" counter** (import duty, goods temporarily imported into Mozambique)

Get all your vehicle documents together with a written list of items that you will be Temporarily Import into Mozambique (see list hereunder - Items that will be returned). NB: check that the trailer is noted on the documentation. If not you might be charged a hefty fine on your return for not declaring the trailer

The driver must proceed to the Vehicle Registration Counter where he will give the official the vehicle and trailer papers as well as the list of items to be Temporarily Imported. The Official will issue you with a printed document. Remember to keep this document with you in case you are stopped at road blocks.

If you have declared an item for temporary import you must bring that item back with you when you exit Mozambique. If the customs officials discover that an item is not present you will either have to return to fetch the item or customs will declare the item imported and you will have to pay a fine and the import duty on the item before you leave the country. Your passport will be retained until these requirements have been met.

- **Ensure you declare all valuable items:**

- Digital cameras, lenses and accessories	- Camping equipment
- Video cameras and accessories.	- Fishing rods, tackle & equipment
- GPS equipment (Garmin, TomTom, etc.)	- Paddle-skis, Kayaks, Canoes.
- Laptops and accessories	- Boats
- Portable televisions	- Bicycles
- I-Pod docking station, I-Pod and accessories.	- Quads
- Hi-Fi's, Radios, Music System	- Motorcycles
- Microwave (if camping)	- Jet-skis
- Desktop PC, Screen, keyboard and Printers	- Yachts
- Camping stoves, gas braais.	- Generators
- DSTV decoder	- Car Freezer/Fridge
- Portable DVD player	- Portable compressor

**Step 2: Immigration Counter**

Before going to the Immigration Counter ensure that you have your passport with you. Proceed to the passport control desk. Immigration will validate and process the travelling documents and stamp the passport. **Make sure your passports are stamped and correctly dated before leaving the customs offices (there have been instances where guests have had to pay heavy fines - 2000 MTZ per person per day for the period that you were in the country- because their passports were not stamped correctly).**

**Step 3: Gate pass / Customs**

Your vehicle contents and baggage may be subject to an inspection regardless of the type of declaration that you have made. In general all vehicles and trailers have to be inspected by a customs official on the Mozambican side in order to obtain a signature on your gate pass. This gate pass will be checked by the gate guard to ensure that firstly you have a customs stamp on it and secondly that you have a customs inspector's signature on it prior to allowing you access into Mozambique. The customs officials wear a beret and light blue shirt with a name tag "Alfandegas".

Should you be stopped and told that your vehicle will be inspected, be patient and be courteous always. This inspection can be cursory or thorough depending on how busy the border is, if you are rude or any number of trivial reasons. After this inspection you may get in your vehicle and proceed to the exit gate.

### **Step 5: Entering Mozambique**

At the **Mozambique check point**, hand in your gate pass to an official at the gate. After the guard has checked that your gate pass has a passport and customs stamp on it plus the signature from the inspecting official you will be waved on, through the gate and into Mozambique.

**Beware! If you have paid a “facilitation fee” to a customs official to waive your vehicle inspection do not be surprised if another customs official at the exit gate conducts a secondary inspection notwithstanding that you have a signed gate pass.** The customs officials are in cell phone contact and will often phone through your vehicle registration to the exit official if they feel they could extract a bit more cash from you. This scam is used to hit you with a double whammy – your “facilitation fee” plus an “unofficial fine” if any undeclared goods are discovered.

Keep ALL receipts/documents in a file as you can be required to return them when leaving a country. The Maputo corridor is complete, making it a good highway all the way from Gauteng. The road going north from Maputo (EN 1 – National Road #1) to Inhambane is generally a good tar road.