

## Newsletter

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## Through its branch network

## MILLENNIUM BIM INTEGRATES SEW

Just like FNB, Banco Único, Moza Banco and BCI, Millennium BIM has joined the Single Electronic Window System (SeW), by signing the accession agreement with the Revenue Authority.

The agreement is aimed at implementing the policies set by the Mozambican authorities within the scope of the modernization, simplification and increasing the efficiency in the process of customs clearance for goods that involves the trading community in the compliance with their rights, duties and tax obligations towards the Mozambique Revenue Authority.

According to Rosário Fernandes, the president of the Mozambique Revenue Authority "how much market share each commercial bank has does not matter here, but the capacity to manage prudential ratios that render viable the timely transmission, and without penalties due to excessive delay in transferring government savings resulting from the tax and revenue collection to the Single Treasury Account".

Rosário Fernandes also said while signing of the Memorandum that Millennium BIM is the fifth bank, that celebrates the accession agreement, and as such, several "interconnectivity and interdisciplinary aspects may have to be addressed in special and complementary protocols, whenever required".

On his turn, Manuel Duarte Marecos, Chief Executive Officer from the Millennium BIM Group, emphasized that "corporate clients involved in international trade can from now on and more easily settle their rights, duties and tax obligations through the Millennium BIM banking channels, within the scope of the SeW project".

On the other hand, Duarte also stressed that "it is with great pleasure that we announce that thanks to the technical solution of BIM, Mozambican companies involved in the international trade can now pay their taxes and customs duties without even leaving their office".

It should be noted that this cooperation will allow national companies involved in the international trade, to pay their taxes and customs



duties in Maputo, Beira and Nacala and within the technological capabilities of the Bank. Payments can be effected from the 150 branches present throughout the country and also through the automatic channels of the Millennium-BIM Internet, ATM, Millennium BIM line, among others.

## SEW SUMS AND PROCEEDS TO NAMPULA



Within the framework of the campaign to disseminate the Single Electronic Window (SeW), the SeW system implementation team made a stopover in Nampula province, where among other activities, it made a presentation of new technologies for the exchange information and customs clearance for goods, implemented by Customs.

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## ACIS GETS ACQUAINTED WITH THE SEW PROJECT

The Industrial Association - ACIS, a private organization based in Beira, has expressed interest in getting acquainted with the activities related to the SeW, regarding the process of computerization of Customs. In this context, on May 29<sup>th</sup>, the organization met at its premises, with the operators of foreign trade and the SeW implementation team, to inte-

ract and clarify various concerns related to the new clearance process.

Among the many issues raised during the question and answer session, the SeW team presented, in that forum, the advantages brought about by the system and called for the use of the functionalities of the system draw the best benefits out of its potential.

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According to the schedule set by the Customs, since the May 1<sup>st</sup>, users of the port of Nacala benefit from the new techniques for customs clearance for goods.

Just like in other parts of the country in which the SeW is a reality, the actions of the implementation team in that province include the training of the community involved in international trade and that

operate from the port of Nacala, and the training center has so far trained 30 SeW users, among customs officers assigned to work in that region and private operators of foreign trade.

The Governor of Nampula Province, Felismino Tocoli, on behalf of all government agencies, after the SeW presentation team, pledged to provide all necessary support for the successful implementation of the SeW in Nampula Province.



## CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME IN PROGRESS AT THE BORDERS

The Lebombo Border Post in Komatiport, in neighboring South Africa, recently hosted an interactive session organized by the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative - MCLI in order to present the plan of modernization of SARS Customs at that Komatiport/Ressano Garcia border point. The meeting was attended by over 80 participants, including managers of Mozambique Customs and staff members of the SeW.

The Mozambican team as well as participants from South Africa had the opportunity to receive firsthand information about the programme to modernize the South African Customs and interact directly with SARS on issues related to the implementation of the SeW in Mozambique.

Just like in Mozambique, considerable changes are taking place in that brother country, within the scope of the programme for the modernization of customs, with impact on the trade facilitation activities, namely: electronic processing of customs declarations, along with automated risk assessments to differentiate between low-trade risk and high risk, and to accelerate the movement of trucks across the border posts.



### THE TEAM

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## SHIPPING AGENTS AND CUSTOMS EVALUATE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF CARGO MANIFESTS

Within the scope of the implementation of the SeW the system implementation team met in Maputo on May 30<sup>th</sup> with the shipping agents that operate in the Port of Maputo and deal with customs clearance for goods. The meeting aimed at discussing and understanding some of the constraints related to the activities of the agents and gather inputs for the maximization of the functionalities of the systems to the benefit of the users of the Customs services and foreign trade facilitation.

After a brief introduction by the Customs Manager Felix Massangaie that presided over the meeting, and gave an overview of the implementation of the SeW with focus on the activities of the shipping agents, namely the mandatory nature of the electronic submission of cargo manifest to customs since April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Relatively to the item number two of the agenda the speaker stressed on the format of the EDI file which the electronic manifests should use for the successful automated submission to the SeW.

From the set of shipping agents that operate in Mozambican ports, only few have been submitting electronically their manifests with some success, and the remaining shipping agents up to date still do it manually or better, they key in the data directly in the system due to the difficulties faced to accommodate the technical specifications required by the SeW to upload information.

In the same meeting, to overcome other constraints, a proposal was presented under which there is a need for the creation and submission of split Bill of Ladings (BLs) by the clearing agent using the BL and rotation number, approval of split BLs by the Shipping agent, approval of the split BLs or BL separation by Customs, payment of the splitting/separation fee at the Bank (if applicable). After a long discussion the proposal was accepted by the shipping

agents present, because it is basically in line with the current practice for similar situations. The parties agreed to proceed with its implementation after approval of the new procedures proposed to the agents by Customs. The SeW team made a commitment to present in the following meeting a document submitted by the Customs, summarizing the procedures to be taken within the SeW.

## CUSTOMS COURT WITH EYES ON THE SINGLE WINDOW

The Magistrates of the Customs Court met, recently in the province of Sofala, to discuss the benefits of the Single Electronic Window (SeW), at the level of that body of customs jurisdiction.

In a session that brought together those magistrates, the SeW system implementation team made a presentation on the functionalities of the SeW and referred mainly to its main objectives, that include to increase state revenues, create of a centralized electronic platform for customs clearance for goods, improve the statistics of foreign trade, reduce



clearance times at ports, airports, borders and other customs offices, reducing the overall cost of doing business in Mozambique.

In the list of features presented, the magistrates of the Customs Court said as concluding remarks, that the SeW is a real source of information for the processing of cases present in the customs courts. On the other hand, within the scope of e-gov the Court aims, in the medium and long term, to be able to connect to the clearance platform.

## TIPS ABOUT SEW

### Confidentiality of credentials in the SeW

#### Did you know that?

Each registered user in the SeW system is ultimately responsible not only for confidentiality, but also for the transactions made by credentials held by him/her?

If situations arise that result in audit, the holder of credentials is responsible for them.

As a precaution procedure all registered users of the SeW system must comply with the security rules to maintain strict and confidential use of the credentials.

Note that the registration of users is authorized and approved by Customs, so, regardless of his/her rank, he/she should never reveal his/her user name and password.

In other words:

“The allegation of lack of understanding or agreement with respect to a transaction made in the system through particular credentials does not exempt them of any responsibility”.



### SeW Portal Operation Features

#### Did you know that?

The Single Electronic Window (SeW) has a portal available in the Web for the entire community of users of the SeW System and beyond, for all concerned and curious about the customs clearance process?

In the portal, interested people find different information about customs clearance in Mozambique such as:

- Customs tariff prevailing in the country, which contains the rates applicable to each imported goods;
- Procedures that have a detailed description of the steps, customs procedures, conditions and arrangements for clearance;
- CPC's: make it easy to identify the nature of freight movements;
- Exchange rates applied daily to the statements submitted to Customs;



- The current legislation on matters related to the clearance process;
- The news that include a space for frequently asked questions about the new technology for clearance of goods as well as the processes themselves;
- The Vessel Tracker (VT), real-time image of the Maputo port with ships located and approaching the area, and soon, from other ports of the country;
- Among other relevant information.

This portal can be accessed through the address: [www.mcnet.co.mz](http://www.mcnet.co.mz) and depending on your preference you can view the portal in Portuguese or English.

