

January/
February
2010

Special points of interest:

- Are you registered with the US Embassy
- What can the consular section do for you?
- New Embassy

The consular section will be closed for routine American citizens services

January 18—22.

We ask that you please take care of routine services before or after the above time frame. We will remain available for emergency services.

Letter from the Consul

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2010. I hope that everyone had a good holiday season and has a good new year.

The consular section has hired a new part-time consular assistant named Laura Rumpf. She introduced herself at the last town hall meeting and has a letter of introduction later in this newsletter. She is revamping our registration list so do not be surprised if you get a telephone

call from her verifying your contact information.

Tensions seem to have resumed in the political arena in Madagascar after a relatively quiet holiday season. We remind everyone to review the country specific information for Madagascar and always stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings.

Unfortunately, crime also seems to have

increased in the last year. If you are the victim of a crime please be sure to let us know. If your passport gets stolen please file a police report and notify us immediately so we can issue a replacement as soon as possible.

Town hall meetings will continue as scheduled (unless notified otherwise) on the third Wednesday of every month at 5pm at Villa Liberty.

Consular Section Hours

Non-immigrant visa interviews:
Monday & Wednesday
7:45—10:45am

Non-immigrant visa pass back
Tuesday & Thursday
4pm

Immigrant visa interviews:
Thursday
9am

American citizen services
Monday—Friday
7:45—11:30am
Afternoons by appointment



The mission of the Bureau of Consular Affairs is to protect the lives and interests of American citizens overseas and to strengthen U.S. border security.

Are you still registered with us?

Is a friend or colleague no longer receiving communications from the US Embassy?

As requested, many Americans informed us of their departure during the political unrest earlier this year. In order to be able to have an accurate representation of Americans still in country, the Consular Section closed the registrations of those who left.

Unfortunately, not everyone has told us of their arrival back in Madagascar. If you or a friend were previously registered with the US Embassy and are no longer re-

ceiving e-mail or SMS messages from us, the registration service could be closed in our system.

If this is the case, there is no need to re-register online (doing so creates duplicate registrations). If you are certain that a registration already exists in our system, simply send us an e-mail at an-tanwarden@state.gov. We can quickly and easily re-open your registration and you will begin receiving correspondence from us immediately.

Please be sure to pass this information on to your friends and colleagues.

Very important:

We strongly encourage American citizens living in Madagascar to complete the Privacy Act Waiver, granting the consular office authority to facilitate communication in the event of an emergency. You may choose the limitations of the waiver, indicating to whom exactly your contact info may be disclosed. The waiver may be completed via the website: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Or orally via telephone or the next time you visit our office.

Living in Madagascar?

With the end of the year tax day is coming up quickly. The US Embassy has copies of the most common forms that those living abroad will need in order to complete their 2009

taxes. We also have guides explaining new laws and procedures; a comprehensive guide for US citizens living abroad; and instruction booklets for the most common forms.

You can come by during normal business hours to pick up any form.

Please note that the US Embassy cannot mail your tax return for you to the United States. You must

IRS forms available continued...

return all forms through private means.

The US Embassy's website contains important information regarding tax payment at www.antanarivo.usembassy.gov/service/tax-information.html.

The Regional IRS office in Paris also hosts a comprehensive website of tax information for Americans living abroad at <http://france.usembassy.gov/irs.html>

Meet Laura Rumpf, Consular Assistant

Greetings. As of December, 2009, I started working as Consular Assistant. Previous to being posted to Madagascar, I have lived in Hong Kong, Burma and Rome, though Maine will always be "home" to me. One of the projects I will be assisting with is updating our warden list with current contact information of American citizens living in Madagascar. I look forward to being in touch and crossing paths with many of you in 2010.

New Embassy Compound

As we welcome the new year, the U.S. Mission has much to look forward to in 2010. First and foremost, the Embassy and USAID will be moving to the New Embassy Compound (NEC) near Point Pacom. For those that make the drive between downtown and the airport, you have witnessed the rapid progress the American contractor, B.L. Harbert International, has made over the last two years. Through all of the obstacles in the past year,

the NEC looks to be finishing ahead of schedule with the final move scheduled for April 2010.

Around the beginning of the new millennium, the U.S. Department of State developed a standard embassy design for its new embassies that it adapts to the size and climate of the U.S. mission in the respective country. With a great deal of support from Congress following the 1998 embassy

bombings in East Africa, the Department embarked on a worldwide embassy construction security program with a goal to put all of our embassy employees and visitors in safe, secure and more functional facilities. Since then, the Department has completed more than 60 new embassies and consulates, and placed more than 20,000 employees worldwide into these improved compounds.

Though security remains at the forefront, NEC construction also follows strict environmental and energy design criteria, as well. Being a federal building, the Department is committed to following standards for environmentally sustainable construction developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, known as LEEDS (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Buildings



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Useful Websites

[Madagascar Country Specific Information](#)

[Comoros Country Specific Information](#)

[General Information About Travel Abroad](#)

www.antananarivo.usembassy.gov

New Embassy Compound (con't.)

achieve different LEEDS ratings through a point system for sustainability elements that are incorporated into a facility. The Antananarivo NEC includes numerous initiatives, including solar panels for heating water for the Marines Residence and Recreational Facility, storm water management to prevent flooding, waste water management, low-energy lighting technology, renewable and low-emitting materials for improved indoor air quality, use of day lighting in work spaces, bicycle parking and much more.

We plan to schedule a tour of the NEC for our fellow Americans in the community in the latter part of March. You can anticipate an announcement with details about the tour as we get closer to that time.