

# SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

December 2014 to July 2015\*

## CUSTOMS

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CUSTOMS STAFF ENACTED**

Decree No. 48/2014, of 31 December 2014, enacted a Code of Conduct for Customs Staff. This statute establishes a set of principles and rules of conduct to be observed by all employees of the Customs Directorate, regardless of their position, category and function. One of the most important measures is the prohibition of acceptance of gifts and hospitality, or invitations to participate in commercial promotional activities. It also provides for a regime of impediments and incompatibilities applicable to customs staff.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### **RULES ON PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK INTER-CONNECTIONS AMENDED**

Decree-Law No. 24/2014, of 31 December 2014, introduced amendments to the rules on public telecommunication network inter-connections in force since 2007. The modifications basically aim at bringing the regime implemented by Decree-Law No. 24/2007, of 30 August 2007, in line with the new reality of the telecommunications market, thus ensuring the provision of a universal telecommunications service in São Tomé and Príncipe.

## STATE ADMINISTRATION

### NEW RULES ON STATE ASSETS MANAGEMENT

New rules on State assets management were introduced by Decree-Law No. 19/2014, of 4 December 2014. The new rules apply to the acquisition, management and disposal of State and State-owned entities assets, including not only real estate but also vehicles and other movables. Besides the São Toméan State, the provisions of this statute also cover the other public entities, local authorities, the Autonomous Region of Príncipe, public institutions and, in many cases, State-owned companies.

### LAW ON MAJOR STATE PLANNING OPTIONS FOR 2015 PASSED

The Major State Planning Options for 2015 were approved by means of Law No. 2/2015, of 28 May 2015. Of particular interest are the measures aimed at encouraging the development of tourism and leisure, agriculture, the livestock sector and fisheries, as well as the easing of certain aspects related to commerce and investment.

### GENERAL STATE BUDGET LAW FOR 2015 PASSED

The National Assembly of São Tomé and Príncipe enacted the 2015 General State Budget (Law No. 1/2015, of 28 May 2015) establishing the budgetary goals, measures for financial containment and methods of domestic and foreign financing that the country may resort to during this period.

\* The dates included herein are the dates on which the relevant statutes were published in the Official Gazette, as per Article 2.2 of Law No. 10/2008, of 24 September 2008.

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