

MARITIME CABOTAGE SPECIAL REGISTER OF FOREIGN SHIPS FOR MARITIME CABOTAGE



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In order to suit maritime cabotage to the country's economic reality and seeking to promote modernisation of maritime transport in Mozambique, attracting national and foreign companies to its development, the government enacted Decree 35/2016, of August 31, which came into force immediately, creating a special mechanism for the registration of foreign vessels wishing to engage in shipping.

Although there are some practical aspects still to be regulated, the main objective of the decree mentioned above is to authorise and to lay down the conditions under which the special registration of foreign ships to engage in shipping activities will come to be allowed, provided that they fly the Mozambican flag for the purpose.

In order to carry out the said special registration of foreign ships, shipowners are obliged to comply cumulatively with the following requirements:

- i. Suspend the previous registration for a period of not less than 5 (five) years;
- ii. Fly the Mozambican flag;
- iii. The ships must be owned by a company established in Mozambique, at least 35% of the share capital of which must be held Mozambican citizens and/or companies in which Mozambican entities have a majority holding;
- iv. The ships can be no more than 10 (ten) years old.

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The rules applicable to the special registration of ships engaged in maritime cabotage also apply to ships under the bareboat charter mechanism, provided it is carried on by Mozambican companies of which at least 35% of the share capital is owned by Mozambican citizens and/or companies in which Mozambican entities have a majority holding.

The entry into force of the Regulatory Decree that will establish incentive granted to those wishing to undertake the special registration of foreign ships for maritime cabotage is awaited with great expectation, for only then will it be possible to assess this new legal regime in its fullness.



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MUDAULANE - MOÇAMBIQUE (detail)
O Casal de Hugene, 2005
Tinta-da-China s/ papel
84 X 60 cm
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