



East and Southern Africa
Region

ESA SOTHO PHOTO CONTEST 2020



WINNING PHOTOS

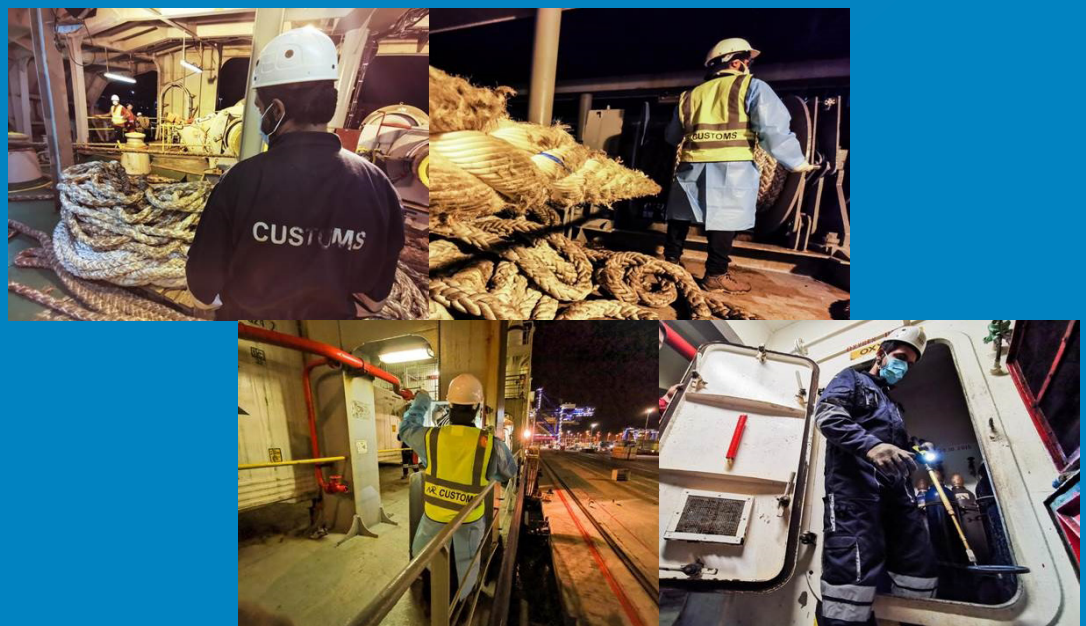
UGANDA



KENYA



MAURITIUS





EDITORIAL – PHOTO CONTEST 2020.

Herein another milestone! Half a decade of the ESA Sotho Photo Contest! Some may recall that this journey was launched in Lesotho in 2016, and named in honour of the first country that hosted the contest. With the first contest won by Zimbabwe, Kenya took the next three in a row, retaining the coveted trophy, and seeing to it that we get a new one.



Let us give it up to The Pearl of Africa, Uganda, for winning the 2020 contest. The Member voting was virtual this time, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Uganda's victory seemed obvious as the votes started trickling in. Kenya put up the usual spiritedness and emerged second. Mauritius, which won the bronze last year, has done it again!

And so, in this edition we share with you Angola's *Santa Clara Ninja*, Kenya's *Flying Ants*, Lesotho's *COVID Army*, Malawi's *Leaking pethidine*, Mauritius' *Braving COVID*, Mozambique's *Grocery run*, Rwanda's *Faithful Soldier*, Somalia's *Neighbourhood Port*, South Africa's *Custom Apped*, Uganda's *Toxic Baby*, Zambia's *Chemical Warfare* and Zimbabwe's *COVID-19 Side Effect*.

We are proud of all the Members who have 'told a Customs story' this year with their submissions. These go a long way in sharing best practises and experiences that buttress our efforts in promoting trade facilitation, revenue mobilisation, compliance and enforcement, integrity and human capital development.

Enjoy!

Larry Liza
Director



ESA 'SOTHO PHOTO' CONTEST 2020

The World Customs Organization, East and Southern Africa, Regional Office for Capacity Building, launched the **Annual ESA 'Sotho photo' Contest**. This called for Members to submit their 'best' photos to be displayed and voted for during the meeting of the region's Directors General, the Governing Council, annually. This contest was christened 'Sotho' in honour of the nation and people of Lesotho, which hosted the first photo contest in the region during Governing Council in May, 2016. We also hoped that this contest will further boost our Members' submission of photos for the WCO Annual Photo Competition.

Meanwhile, all the photos submitted form part of the **'ESA Sotho photo Book, a collection of photos that tell Customs stories**.

Historically, the voting process has taken place during our Governing Council, bringing together all our 24 Member countries, partners and stakeholders. With the physical meeting not taking place as scheduled in May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Members voted virtually. The winners were announced by the ROCB Director, Mr. Larry Liza, during the virtual 25th Governing Council which took place on 22nd June 2020.





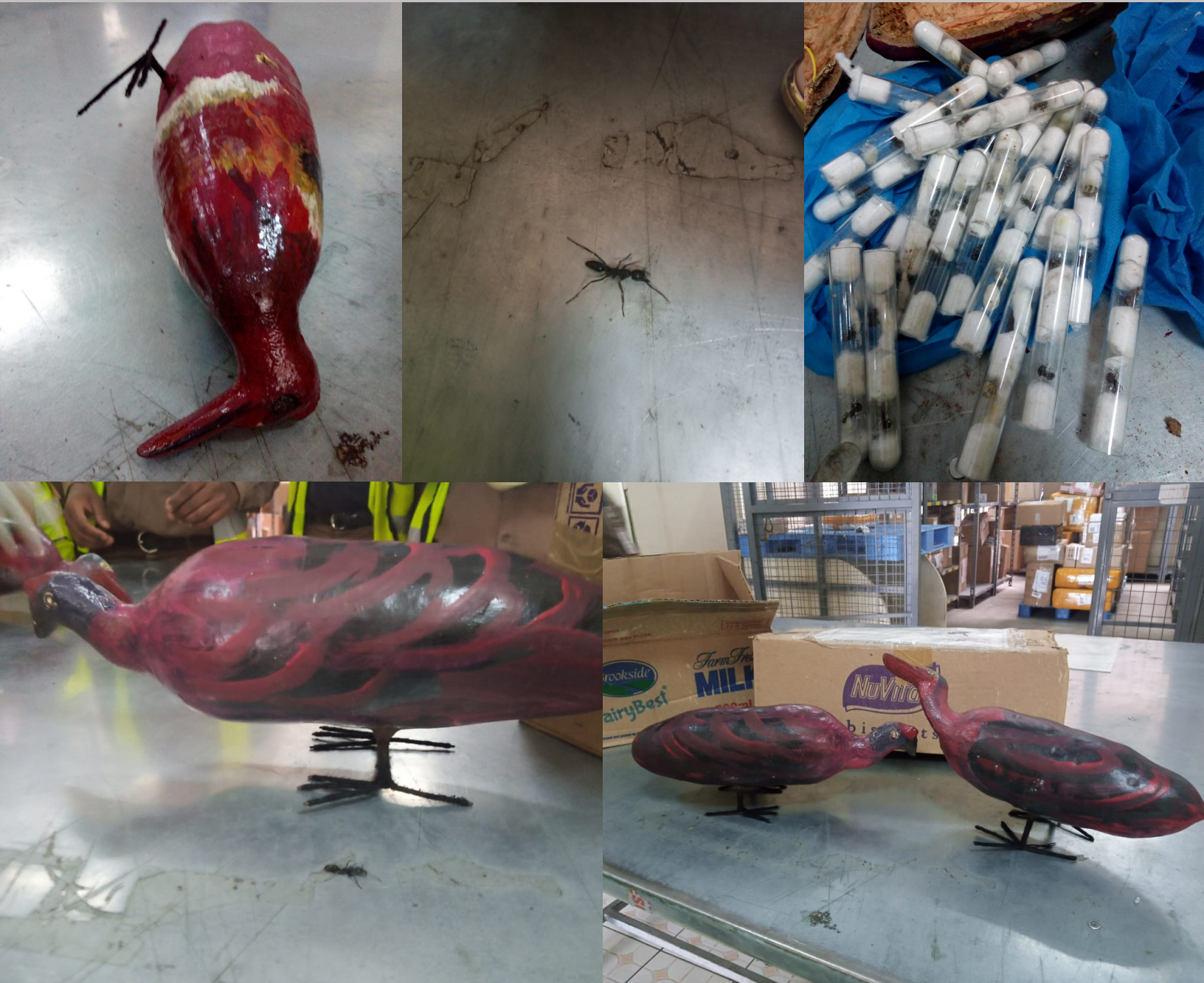
1. ANGOLA – SANTA CLARA NINJA!



Customs Officer accompanied by his dog, search a vehicle coming from Ondjiva to Namibia at the Angola, Santa Clara Border



2. KENYA – FLYING ANTS!



Kenya!! Interception at UPS signon

This shipment was intercepted at UPS courier services, airway bills Y0060737353/ Y006737344 which included toy birds (sculptures) with ants concealed in the bird carvings.



3. LESOTHO – COVID ARMY!!



Lesotho has piloted a Coordinated Border Management approach to border control, which is led by Lesotho Revenue Authority, at Maseru Bridge Border Post.

In the wake of COVID 19, Lesotho Border Management Services Officers at Maseru Bridge Border Post are unfazed to serve the Clients, through observing precautionary measures that include physical distancing and using face masks.

In line with Customs strategy of continuous improvement on the service offered to Clients, the Client also rates the service received through the Instant Client Feedback System.



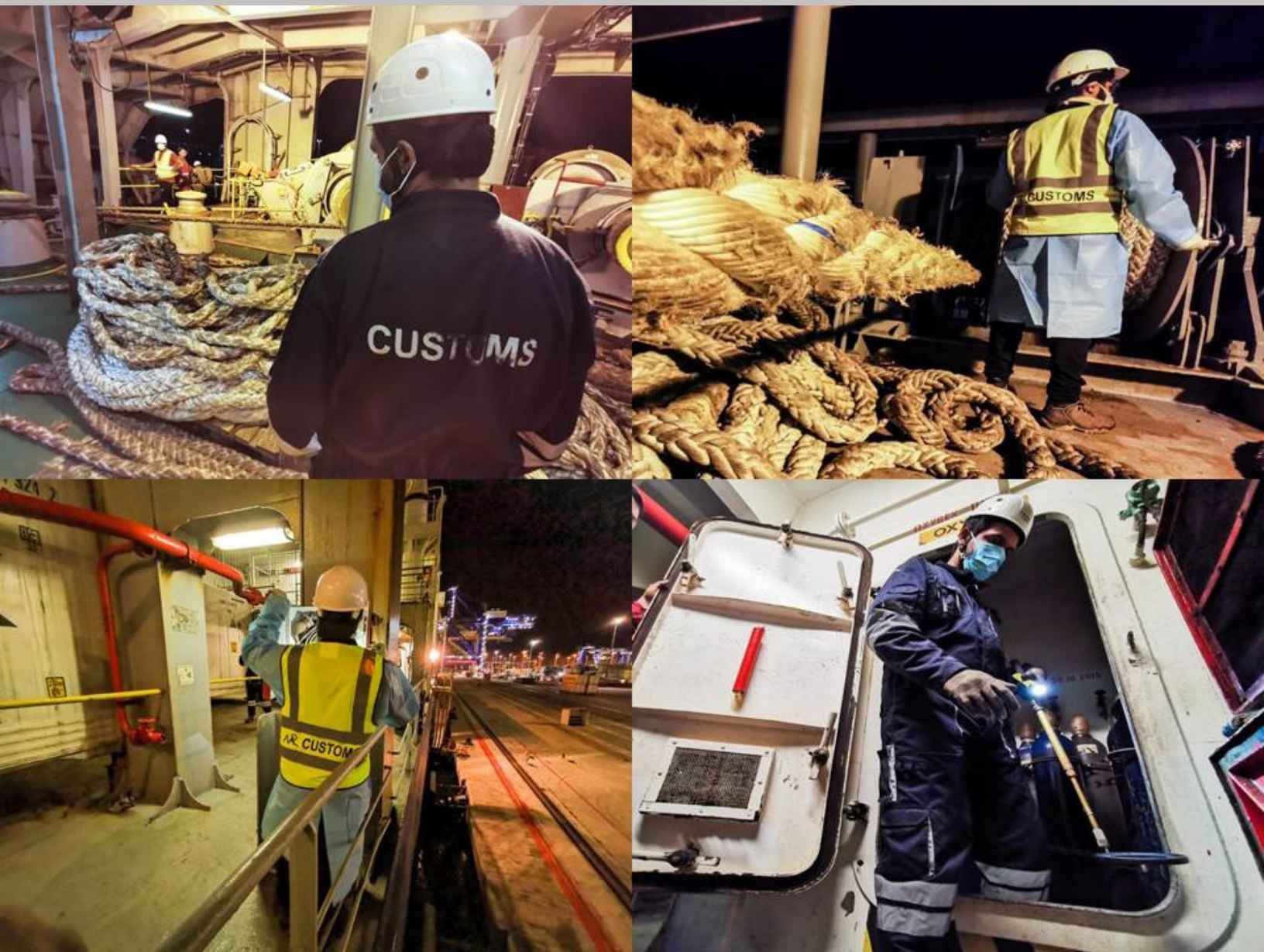
4. MALAWI - LEAKING PETHIDINE!



Pethidine drug seized at Chileka Airport in Malawi. Importer declared gaskets from India. Customs officials decided to conduct physical examination basing on Risk Analysis. Small-Scale Traders in Malawi normally import their merchandise from China, Dubai and South Africa. The seizure is a testimony of Malawi Customs commitment towards protection of society in line with this year's theme 'Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet'.



5. MAURITIUS – BRAVING COVID!!



Mauritius Customs – Braving the COVID-19 pandemic to safeguard our borders

Fully equipped Customs Officers of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) carrying out a rummage of a high risk container vessel at 2.00 a.m. while the country is in sanitary curfew. Although, e-customs enabled the majority of officers to Work-from-Home to ensure business continuity, some daring customs soldiers are physically present at the border when called for duty by the nation.

No vessels, passengers/crew members are allowed entry at our ports unless they have exceeded the fourteen (14) days' incubation period of COVID-19 as imposed by Health Authorities.



6. MOZAMBIQUE - GROCERY RUN!!



Seizure in Ressano Garcia of about 13 tons of chicken and its derivatives, considerable quantities of alcoholic beverages, various grocery products and 18 vehicles used to transport smuggled goods.

The merchandise presented is the result of inspection work that the customs authorities and other State entities have carried out on what is the largest and busiest land border in the country, both in terms of infrastructure and in terms of volume of cargo that passes through there.



7. RWANDA – FAITHFUL SOLDIER!!



The above photo was taken during the International World Customs Day 2020 and shows the Commissioner for Rwanda Customs Ms. UWAMARIYA Rosine recognizing and appreciating one of the Clearing and Forwarding Agency/Company that has worked with customs for the last 10 years with a clean record and as complaint partner.



8. SOMALIA – NEIGHBORHOOD PORT!



Mogadishu Port; a port in the neighborhood



9. SOUTH AFRICA – CUSTOM APPED!!



Customs Officers Ntshavheni Rasivhetshela, Motubatse Thobejane and Gert Basson using the new MobiApp at OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) in South Africa.

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) introduced a new MobiApp to assist Customs officers in the field to record and manage cases relating to enforcement interventions in October 2019. The MobiApp introduces simplified screens and workflow, as well as a number of new innovations which include the ability to simplify the capturing of case data in the field, to work offline, to automatically sync data once in a SARS Wi-Fi area and to automatically provide clients with a case number.

The new technology has been welcomed by Customs officers who say it is improving efficiency by providing real-time data, saving time, cutting out the manual paper process and enhancing communication.



10. UGANDA – TOXIC BABY!!



The photo shows an Intercepted mother carrying a 'baby' aboard a Bus at Mpondwe Border of western Uganda, by Uganda Revenue Authority Customs Enforcement.

She had crossed into Uganda from the Democratic Republic of Congo on the 8th of January 2020.

It turned out that the 'baby' was a dummy containing banned Cosmetics which contain Hydroquinone and Mercury other cancer causing chemicals.



11. ZAMBIA – CHEMICAL WARFARE!!



ZRA turns to the lab to fight COVID-19 - Laboratory Manager, Dickens Chisengalumbwe displays the sanitizer.

Within hours of the announcing the first COVID-19 case in Zambia, the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), using its Customs Laboratory, produced its own hand sanitizer to help customs stations in remote areas.

The sanitizer was produced using affordable and locally available pharmacopoeia quality reagents and humectants. Based on World Health Organization (W.H.O) formulations for alcohol based hand sanitizers, the solution was made from denatured ethanol of 99.9% v/v stock, concentrated lemon juice (as an economical substitute for Hydrogen Peroxide), and 98% v/v glycerol.

The dilutions were made with sterile distilled water to achieve the overall strength of 80% v/v. This mixture maintained and minimally augmented the PH of ethanol thereby, preserving its efficacy to combat the virus and other bacterial spores.



12. ZIMBABWE – COVID-19 SIDE EFFECT!!



As a result of border closures due to the COVID-19 global pandemic there has been an upsurge in smuggling through illicit entry points along the Limpopo River between Zimbabwe and South Africa as captured in the photo above!

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