INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ICAO Regional Seminar on MRTDs, Biometrics and Border Security

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Elephant Hills Resort,
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MRTD AND ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM:

THE ZIMBABWEAN SITUATION

MRTD: VISAS

The growth in international crime and illegal immigration has led to increasing concerns over the security of travel documents. With this in mind, ICAO has established baseline security standards for production and issuance of machine readable travel documents.

As part of the international travel network, Zimbabwe has not been spared by threats to document security like;

- Counterfeiting a complete travel document
- Photo substitution
- Deletion/alteration of text in the visual or machine readable zone of the biographical data page
- Construction of a fraudulent document, or parts thereof, using materials from legitimate documents
- Removal and substitution of entire page(s) or visas
- Deletion of entries on visa pages and the observations page
- Theft of genuine blanks
- Impostors (assumed identity, altered appearance)

In order to provide protection and to enhance the visa issuance process, the Zimbabwe Immigration has upgraded the border control system to allow for visa personalization.

Acceptance of Machine readable travel documents

The Zimbabwe Immigration border control system is able to accept virtually all ICAO compliant Machine readable travel documents. The system relies on the ARH PRMC233R passport reader which extracts passport details from the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) of compliant passports.

The scanner also retrieves passport information from Biometric passports. The system is fully compliant.

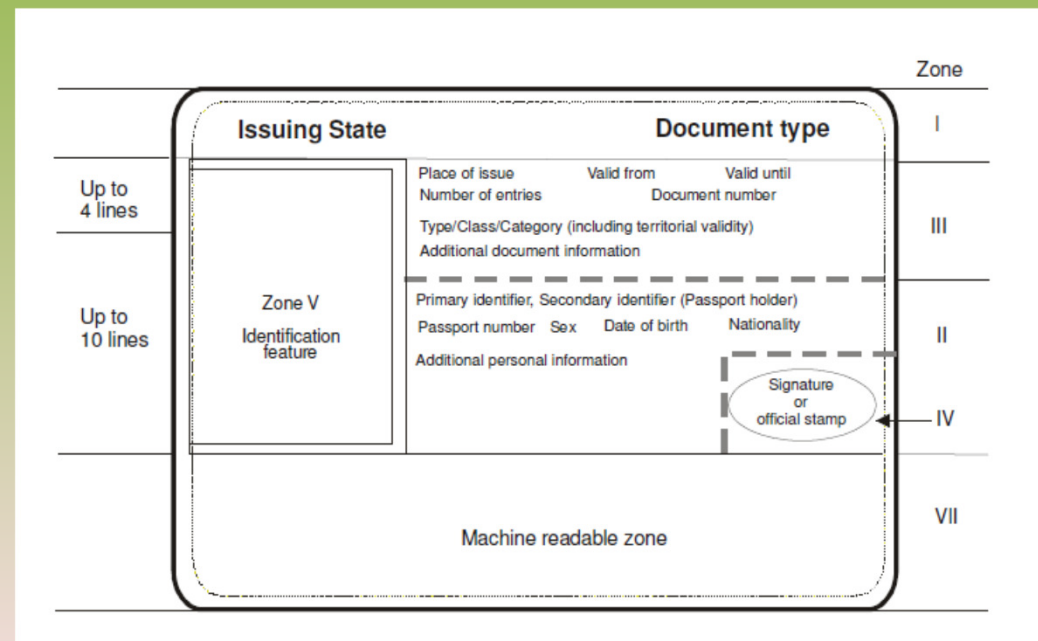## Amendment to current visa stationary to facilitate computerised issuance

- In order to enhance the speed, accuracy and security of visa issuance process, the Zimbabwe border control system has been upgraded to allow for visa personalisation. The system will produce ICAO 9303 Part 2 compliant Machine Readable visas directly from within the current immigration clearing process flow.

- All of the system upgrades have been implemented, what remains is for a new stationery layout to be adopted to meet the general ICAO guidelines:

Visa personalisation

ICAO recommendation

Zimbabwe Product

Ideally we would wish to retain all of the security features in the current document as well as the majority of the design elements save for reordering information fields on the document as proposed below:

Thank You