

## Country Profile: Sierra Leone




The Consulate General of the Republic of Sierra Leone in Miami, headed by Consul-General George Hamilton, prides itself as the first African Consulate-General in Florida. Despite being only a few years old, the consulate is also accredited to eight other countries, which goes to show the importance of such a Mission.

In line with the foreign policy objective of Sierra Leone, the Consulate's mission is to ensure the promotion and protection of Sierra Leone's national interest. The office is also charged with the responsibility of building on and maintaining the existing bilateral relationship between Sierra Leone

and Florida as a whole, promote business, trade, investment, tourism, and cultural relations, while also seeking the interest of Sierra Leone nationals in Florida.

The country owes its name to the 15<sup>th</sup> century Portuguese sailor, Pedro De Sintra, the first European to sight and map the harbor of Sierra Leone capital city - Freetown. The Country's original Portuguese name was "Sierra Lyoa" (Lion Mountains), which was referring to the range of hills that surround the harbor. The capital, Freetown, commands one of the World's largest natural harbors. Freetown also commemorates the nation's slave-trade history with the Cotton-tree landmark and King's Yard Gate. Both were renowned for being places of refuge for returned slaves in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Closer to Freetown, is a place called Bunce Island, which was a strategic departure point during the slave trade.

The country became a British crown colony in 1808, and later gained its independence on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1961. Despite having a population that is mostly engaged in subsistence agriculture, Sierra Leone is also a mining center. Its land boasts of large deposits of diamonds, gold, bauxite, rutile, chromite, and a host of other natural resources. Having gone through eleven years of civil war that ended in 2002, the country has been slowly rebuilding its physical and social infrastructure, while fostering reconciliation. The current President, (Rtd) Brigadier Dr. Julius Maada Bio, was the Head of State during the civil war, and ensured the smooth transitioning of power from Military to Democratic rule.

The Country's flag is made up of three equal horizontal bands of light green (top), white (middle), and light blue (bottom). Green symbolizes agriculture, mountains, and natural resources, white represents unity and justice, while blue represents the sea and natural harbor in Freetown. As a means of motivating investors, the country offers numerous opportunities, rebates and incentives, including: 5.4 million hectares of arable land that is readily available, an investment court that handles only investment-related matters, attractive fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, significant hydro and irrigation potentials, strong privatization and divestiture program schedule, duty-free access to lucrative markets (African Union, Economic Community of West African States, MRU, the United States, European Union, and Asia), and significant and untapped mineral deposits.

For travelers, Sierra Leone is a beautiful country surrounded with hills, valleys, bars and lagoons, harmonious and enriched cultural fusion which brings you closer to everyday life, with a glimpse of natural hopes, as a variety of birds chirps signal of leisure and friendly chimpanzees hoot your welcome. Sierra Leone is still West Africa's secret beach destination. Sweet sand rises from the soft waters of the Atlantic, with the backdrop dressed in sun-stained hues, rainforest green and the red roads of the north. In Freetown, colorful stilted houses bring to remembrance the days when freed slaves from the Caribbean were resettled upon the shores. Thanks to Consul General Hamilton for his contribution to this article.

**JUNE 2022**

Division Director's Message



**U. Desmond Alufohai**  
Director

Protocol & International Affairs Division  
Miami-Dade Aviation Department

In April 2022 Royal Air Maroc relaunched its MIA-Casablanca flight. It is the only non-stop flight between South Florida and the African continent. The Republic of Sierra Leone opened a Consulate in Miami-Dade County during the COVID-19 Pandemic as the first and only African country with a full diplomatic post in Florida.

These are noteworthy and historic events. According to the African Union, [Agenda 2063](#), is Africa's development blueprint to achieve inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development over a 50-year period. Agenda 2063 encourages political arrangements which support investment in continental infrastructure development which provides better growth, trade, and commercial opportunities and linkages. Numerous opportunities abound between South Florida and Africa through sustained and reciprocal efforts on both sides.

We celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month and immigrant heritage month. We also salute the nations celebrating their independence day in June. We look forward to hosting the Consular Corps of Miami's Airport Operations Seminar on August 31,

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**Save the Date**

— CONSULAR CORPS OF MIAMI —

**Airport Operations Seminar**

**Wednesday, August 31, 2022**

**8:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Miami International Airport  
Concourse D Auditorium (Door #1)**

**Invitation to Follow**



Breakfast & lunch provided. Please bring your parking ticket for validation.

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## Flag Day in the United States



[June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day](#) in the United States of America. This day was established by Congress on August 3, 1949 and signed into law by President Harry Truman. Before that date President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and President Calvin Coolidge in 1927 issued proclamations asking for June 14<sup>th</sup> to be observed as the National Flag Day. There were also many earlier initiatives by state governors, school superintendents, and citizens to have Flag Day recognized.

When the War for American Independence started in April of 1775, there was no formal army. Militia groups fought under a variety of Regiment Flags. Shortly after the war started, it became clear that unified command was required, so all the militias would be fighting together. The Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia PA in June of 1775, and the Continental Army was formed, with General George Washington in command. At this time the “Continental Colors” or “Grand Union” flag came to be. It is considered the first flag of the United States. Some thought that flag was too similar to the British Colonial Flag, therefore on [June 14, 1777](#) the Second Continental Congress established what would be recognized today as the flag of the USA, 13 alternating red and white stripes with a blue union containing one star for each state. Today, Flag Day commemorates the day the “Stars and Stripes” was adopted as the official flag.

### [USA Flag Facts:](#)

- ◆ Including the Grand Union Flag, there have been 28 flags representing the USA.
- ◆ The third flag of the USA had 15 stars and 15 stripes, all others would only have 13 stripes with additional stars added with each new state.
- ◆ The flag in use the longest is the current 50 star version, from July 4, 1960 when a star was added for Hawaii (62 years as of July 4, 2022).
- ◆ The second longest serving flag is the 48 star version (47 years), the third longest serving flag is the 15 star version (23 years). The 13 star version served for 18 years.
- ◆ The 1777 thirteen-star version of the flag was flown for 18 years.
- ◆ 9 flags were only used for 1 year (20 star, 21 star, 25 star, 27 star, 28 star, 29 star, 32 star, 43 star. And 49 star)
- ◆ The term “Old Glory” was coined in 1831, under the 24-star version of the USA flag. The 24-star version would fly for 14 years before Arkansas was added on July 4, 1836.
- ◆ The largest USA flag ever produced is known as the [“Superflag”](#). It measures 255 x 505 feet (78 x 154 meters), weighs 3,000 pounds, and was displayed briefly at Hoover Dam for the 1996 Olympic Torch relay. For comparison, the flag often seen at large sporting events in the USA measures 150x300 feet (the size of an American Football field).

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## Origins of Human Flight



[Joseph-Michel \(1740-1810\) and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier \(1745-1799\)](#), [French aviators](#), were pioneer developers of the hot-air balloon who conducted the first untethered flights. Over the years, modifications and improvements of the basic Montgolfier design paved the way for larger and sturdier balloons that allowed exploration of the upper atmosphere.

The idea of flight first came to Joseph in 1782, while he was watching laundry drying over an open fire. He noticed that the laundry would float up and wondered if the hot air from the fire could be used to create a flying device. A wooden box, covered by light fabric on all sides, proved that this was indeed possible, when hot air lifted it all the way to the ceiling.

On June 4, 1783, the Montgolfiers made the first public demonstration of this discovery in their hometown of Annonay, France. Their balloon, made from three thin layers of paper and covered by a cord net, contained 28,000 cubic feet of air and weighed close to 500 lbs. Burning straw and wool under the opening of the balloon, filled it with heated air. Accounts vary, but most agree that the balloon rose to a height of 3,000 to 5,000 feet. It remained airborne for 10 minutes, then settled to the ground more than a mile and a half away from its launch site. News of this feat quickly reached Paris, and on September 19, 1783, the Montgolfiers launched a larger balloon at the palace of Versailles before King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette.

A sheep, a rooster, and a duck were the first passengers. The balloon remained aloft for 8 minutes and travelled roughly 2 miles before landing safely. The first manned untethered flight in a Montgolfier balloon took place on November 21, 1783, when Pilatre de Rozier and François Laurent, marquis d’Arlandes, floated over Paris for 25 minutes. This event marked the [starting point of the history of human flight](#).

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## June 21, 2022 - World Music Day



June 21<sup>st</sup> usually marks the [summer solstice](#) in the Northern Hemisphere and the winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere. It is the longest day of the year with the most hours of daylight in the Northern Hemisphere and the fewest hours of daylight in the Southern Hemisphere. With the longer daylight hours, people enjoy staying outside longer, enjoying the sun, going out, attending outdoor events, especially after a long and cold winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Why not celebrate June 21<sup>st</sup>, not only as the summer solstice but also as the Fête de la Musique ?

The [Fête de la Musique](#), also known in English as Music Day, Make Music Day, or World Music Day, is an annual music celebration that takes place on June 21<sup>st</sup>. On Music Day, citizens and residents are urged to play music outside in their neighborhoods or in public spaces and parks. Free concerts are also organized, where musicians play for fun and not for payment.

In October 1981, Maurice Fleuret became Director of Music and Dance at the French Ministry of Culture. He applied his reflections to musical practice and its evolution: "the music everywhere and the concert nowhere". When he discovered a 1982 study on the cultural habits of the French, that showed that five million people, one young person out of two, played a musical instrument, he began to dream of a way to bring people together through music. The first all-day musical celebration on the summer solstice was the brainchild of Jack Lang, then Minister of Culture, and Maurice Fleuret. It was celebrated in Paris on June 21, 1982, as the Fête de la Musique.

Ever since then, the festival has become an [international phenomenon](#), celebrated on the same day in more than 700 cities in 120 countries, including India, Germany, Italy, Greece, Russia, Australia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Canada, the United States, the UK, and Japan. June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Music Day.

[Fête de la Musique's purpose](#) is to promote music in two ways:

- (i) Amateur and professional musicians are encouraged to perform in the streets, under the slogan "Faites de la musique" ("Make Music"), a homophone of Fête de la musique, and
- (ii) Many free concerts are organized, making all genres of music accessible to the public.

Two of the caveats to being sanctioned by the official Fête de la Musique organization in Paris are that all concerts must be free to the public, and all performers donate their time free of charge. This is true of most participating cities as well. Most of us have an innate understanding of music. Even if we can't play an instrument, or even sing, somehow, we can connect with rhythms and melodies. Even plants understand music. Did you know they tend to grow faster after a generous helping of classical music? It's true. Although World Day of Music or Fête de la Musique, first started in France, today it highlights music's universal appeal. It's meant to make music more inclusive and encourage people of varying skill levels to interact with all types of tunes. World Day of Music is also an opportunity for musicians to build their presence and connect with their audience on Social Media.

From the oldest musical instrument in the world — the Neanderthal flute, made by Neanderthals 60,000 years ago — to present-day electronic instruments, music has become a significant part of our daily lives. Other than being pleasant to listen to, music is a form of expression — the right melody resonates with feelings better than words can, and music transcends borders. This is exactly what World Day of Music aims for — bringing people together, and breaking barriers and boundaries through music.

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## 5 Amazing Facts about French Music and Musicians

**Frank Sinatra's 'My Way' was originally French.** ['My Way'](#), Frank Sinatra's biggest hit, was adapted from a French song, 'Comme d'habitude,' which was composed, written, and sung by French people.

**Edith Piaf's funeral stopped traffic in Paris.** Since World War II, [Edith Piaf's](#) funeral is the only occasion to have completely stopped traffic in Paris.

**The French are very proud of their music.** The French are so proud of their music, they had a special law enforced that requires at least 40% of the music on private radio stations to be of French origin.

**The biggest-ever audience for a performance.** Jean Michel Jarre is the artist with the biggest-ever audience — 3.5 million people came to see him perform in Moscow in 1997.

**A vastly covered song.** ['La Mer'](#) by Charles Trenet has been covered a total of 4,000 times, including one version by Cliff Richard.

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## Caribbean-American Heritage Month



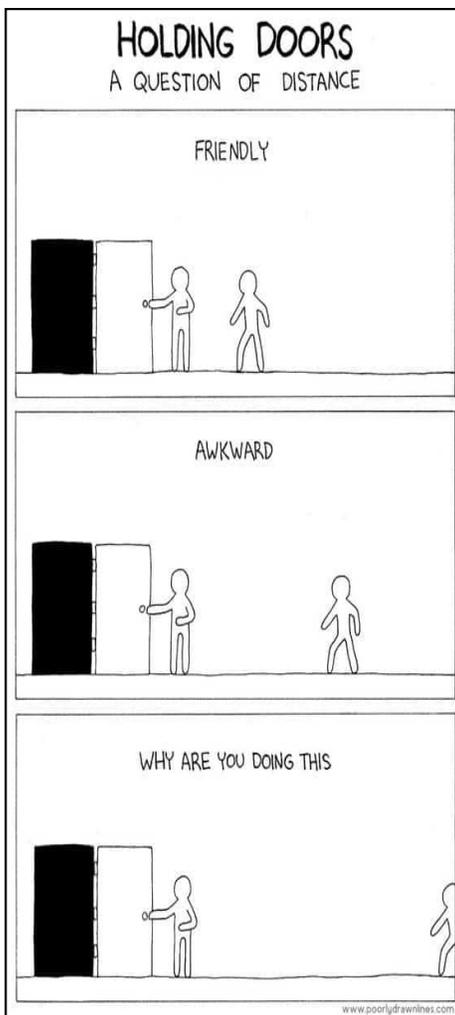
“America’s strength has always been rooted in our diversity. Since our Nation’s founding, generation after generation of immigrants have helped build this country, and the prosperity and opportunity that draw so many immigrants to America would not be possible without the contributions and legacies of Caribbean Americans. Today, millions of Caribbean Americans strengthen our country through their vibrant cultures, traditions, languages, and values. In recognition of National [Caribbean-American Heritage Month](#), we honor the immeasurable ways Caribbean Americans have added to our American dream.” – Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

## Immigrant Heritage Month



“The United States is a Nation of immigrants — shaped by the courageous people from around the world who leave their homes, lives, and loved ones to seek refuge and opportunity on our shores. Their sacrifices and entrepreneurial spirit have contributed to the rich tapestry that has defined the character of our country for generations. Since our founding, the very idea of America as a Nation of limitless possibilities has been nurtured and advanced by immigrants. During National [Immigrant Heritage Month](#), we honor the contributions of immigrants to our great Nation and celebrate their profound impact.” – Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

## [Opening and Holding the Door for Others – The Top 5 Manners](#)



Ashleigh Poteete of Missouri Baptist University lamented the sheer lack of manners in the society in an article on [Odysseyonline.com](#), entitled “[The lack of Manners in Today’s Society](#).” She enumerated a list of some of the most forgotten manners that needs to be reintroduced into today’s society for better community living, including saying "please" and "thank you," saying, "excuse me," and, holding the door open for others.

Opening a door — it’s such a simple thing, but it unlocks so much good. And I bet you’ll be surprised at some of what you’re about to discover. Let’s look at the five manners of opening every door so we never misplace our key to this basic but significant social contract.

### Opening the Door at Home

As you greet people at your door, allow each one plenty of space to enter. Having them squeeze into your home doesn’t send a warm welcome.

### Opening the Door at Work

Chivalry isn’t dead! It’s just that, in the workplace, it’s gender neutral. The first person at the door opens and holds it for the next person. Open the door by pulling it towards you and standing behind it to allow maximum room for people to pass.

### Opening Doors in Public

When out and about, there are lots of times you’ll want to say to those ahead of you, “I’ll be glad to get the door!” These would include times when they: have their hands full, are pushing a baby stroller, have two or more small children with them, are wearing a cast or brace indicating they have a broken arm, wrist, shoulder or such, are on crutches, or look weak or unsteady on their feet.

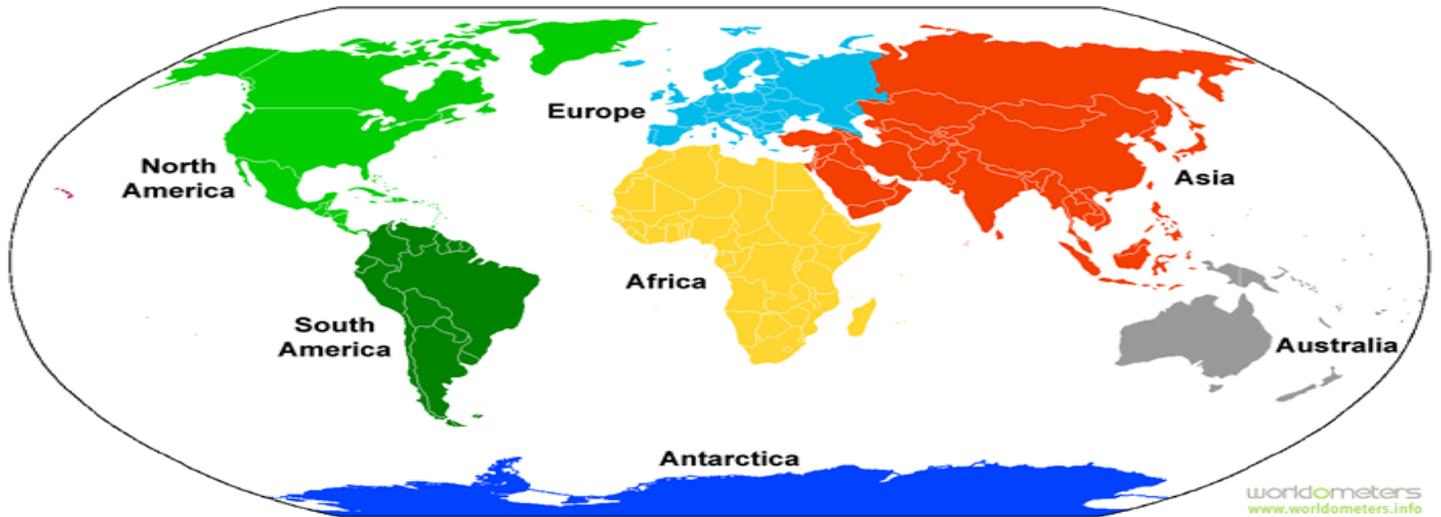
### Opening Car Doors

Socially, men open car doors for women by pulling the door out and standing behind it. Keep your eyes averted for a moment if she’s wearing a skirt or dress so she has a moment to get everything adjusted. If she’s carrying anything, including a purse, it’s nice to offer to hold it until she’s settled in.

### When Someone Opens a Door for You

Make eye contact with the person, smile, and say thank you in a sentence. Thank you’s are nice, but they can come off as rote when not said in a sentence. Try something like, “Thank you for holding the door. That was very kind of you!” You’ve just given the person the gift of a heart-felt thanks, and your words are the type of encouragement that spurs people on to more kind deeds.

# SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT



List of the seven continents - Ranked by Current Position

#	Continent	Population (2020)	Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Density (P/Km <sup>2</sup> )	Percentage of World Population
1	Asia	4,641 billion	31,033,131	150	59.54%
2	Africa	1,341 billion	29,648,481	45	17.20%
3	Europe	748 million	22,134,900	34	9.59%
4	North America	592 million	21,330,000	28	7.60%
5	South America	431 million	17,461,112	25	5.53%
6	Australia/Oceania	43 million	8,486,460	5	0.55%
7	Antarctica	0	13,720,000	0	0.00%

## South America Facts

South America is the fourth largest and the fifth most populous continent. The South American continent is located in the western hemisphere and mainly in the southern hemisphere.

- ◆ There are 12 countries in South America (see list on the right) and 3 dependencies with a total of more than 433 million people living on the continent.
- ◆ Largest Country: Brazil. The country is covering more than half the continent's landmass. Did you know that Brazil is only slightly smaller than the USA?
- ◆ Largest City: Sao Paulo, Brazil. With more than 22 million inhabitants (2021) Sao Paulo is also one of the ten biggest cities in the world.
- ◆ Smallest Country: Suriname. The country is one of the 10 most sparsely populated countries in the world.
- ◆ Biggest Island: *Tierra del Fuego* (Spanish meaning: Land of Fire), at the southern tip of Argentina and Chile
- ◆ Longest River: Amazon River (6,437 km/ 4,000 miles). The Amazon is not only the second longest river in the world after the Nile, it also carries more water than the world's other 10 biggest rivers combined.
- ◆ Highest Mountain: Aconcagua in Argentina. The mountain (6,961 m/ 22,837 ft) is located in the Andes mountain range.
- ◆ Biggest Lake: Lake Titicaca (shared by Bolivia and Peru)
- ◆ Driest Place: While South America's rain forests also are some of the wettest places on the earth, the Atacama desert in Chile is considered the driest place on earth.

There are two landlocked countries in South America: Paraguay and Bolivia are located in the interior of the continent and neither has access to the Atlantic Ocean nor to the Pacific Ocean.

# INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JUNE)

**June 2, 1946 – Italy:** Republic Day or Festa della Repubblica (Festival of the Republic), commemorates the day Italians voted to abolish the monarchy and replace it with a republic.

**June 2, 2022 – United Kingdom:** Since 1748, when King George II decided to combine his birthday celebration with an annual military parade, ‘Trooping the Colour’, has marked the official birthday of the British Sovereign. Due to Britain’s unpredictable weather, King George II chose to hold the parade in June, and this tradition continues today. In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II’s birthday will be celebrated on June 2.

**June 3, 2006 – Montenegro:** In a referendum held on May 21, 2006, Montenegrins voted to end the federation with Serbia and declared independence on June 3, 2006. The Serbian parliament recognized Montenegro’s independence two days later.

**June 4, 1970 – Tonga:** After signing the Treaty of Friendship in 1900, the Kingdom of Tonga became a protectorate of the United Kingdom. Although Tonga retained its sovereignty and continued to self-govern, foreign affairs were handled by the UK. On Emancipation Day, June 4, 1970, Tonga achieved full independence from the UK.

**June 6, 1523 – Sweden:** On June 6, 1523 Gustav Vasa was elected king of Sweden, marking the abolishment of the Kalmar Union between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. From 1916 to 1982, the day was celebrated as Swedish Flag Day. Since 1983, June 6 has been celebrated as Sweden’s National Day.

**June 10, 1580 – Portugal:** Portugal Day, also called Camoes Day, is celebrated annually on June 10 and commemorates the day Portugal’s greatest and most revered poet, Luis de Camoes, passed away in 1580.

**June 12, 1898 – Philippines:** Although the Philippines declared independence from Spain during the Spanish-American War of 1898, Spain ceded them to the United States after the war ended. For nearly 50 years, the Philippines was a colony of the United States until achieving independence on July 4, 1946. In 1962, the date of Philippine independence was changed to June 12, 1898, honoring the day [General Emilio Aguinaldo](#) had declared independence from Spain.

**June 12, 1990 – Russia:** Russia’s national holiday, Russia Day, has been celebrated annually since 1992. It commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) on June 12, 1990.

**June 17, 1944 – Iceland:** After a two-part referendum in May 1944, the union with Denmark was dissolved on June 17, 1944. The date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of Jon Sigurdsson, the leader of Iceland’s 19<sup>th</sup> Century independence movement.

**June 23, (1962) – Luxembourg:** The celebration of the sovereign became an important patriotic public holiday during the reign of Grand Duchess Charlotte (1919- 1964). In 1962, National Day festivities were changed to June 23, to take advantage of the summer weather.

**June 25, 1991 – Slovenia:** The country declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25, 1991.

**June 25, 1975 – Mozambique:** Since Vasco de Gama came ashore in 1497, and Portuguese settlers followed in 1505, Mozambique had been part of Portugal, first as a province and then as a colony. On June 25, 1975, Mozambique attained its independence from Portugal.

**June 26, 1960 – Madagascar:** Madagascar obtained its independence from France on June 26, 1960.

**June 27, 1977 – Djibouti:** Before 1967, Djibouti was known as French Somaliland and from 1967 – 1977 as the French Territory of the Afars and Issas. When the territory gained independence from France on June 27, 1977, it was renamed Djibouti.

**June 29, 1976 – Seychelles:** A British crown colony since 1903, the Seychelles became an independent republic on June 29, 1976.

**June 30, 1960 – Democratic Republic of Congo:** On June 30, 1960, the DRC gained its independence from Belgium.

## ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD’s Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

*To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport’s international programs and initiatives.*

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