



Decree Law nº 52/ 2009

The Democratic Republic of S.Tomé e Príncipe, within the ambit of the policy for the exploitation of the natural resources and diversity of the national economy, has decided to launch a licensing round for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons;

Considering that for this purpose seismic data surveys have been acquired over the Exclusive Economic Zone under the exclusive sovereignty of the Sao Tomean State;

Considering that the referred seismic surveys permit an exact delineation as well as establishing the prospectivity of hydrocarbons;

Considering further that to award and carrying out the respective petroleum operations, it is necessary to divide the Exclusive Economic Zone into blocks precisely delineated by geographical coordinates;

Finally, with a view to avoid any ambiguity in its interpretation, neither this present Decree Law, nor any of its provisions or regulations herein shall be interpreted as constituting a partial or total renunciation by the State of São Tomé e Príncipe in respect of its claim over the totality of the geographical area comprising the Joint Development Zone between the Saotomean State and the Republic of Nigeria in respect of which the applicable legal regime in force is set out in the Treaty between the two States

Wherefore;

In accordance with the competences conferred upon it for the exercise of its powers by article 111 (c) of the Constitution, the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe hereby decrees as follows:

Article 1

The objective of this Decree Law is to organize the Exclusive Economic Zone into exploration zones and petroleum blocks.

Article 2

1. The area available in the Exclusive Economic Zone of São Tomé e Príncipe for the next license round measures one hundred and twenty five thousand eight hundred ninety one square kilometres

(125 891 km²) and is divided into three hydrocarbon exploration zones, appropriately delineated and referred to by the letters A, B, C, as per the map annexed hereto which forms an integral part of this Decree Law.

2. For the development of the petroleum operations it is excluded from the present Decree Law the onshore territory as well as the offshore territorial waters which surround the islands that constitute the country.

Article 3

Zone A has an area of twenty six thousand one hundred and sixty five square kilometres (26 165 km²) and comprises of six (6) blocks numbered from one (1) to six (6) defined by the coordinates and area set forth in annex I which forms an integral part of this Decree Law.

Article 4

Zone B has an area of fifty thousand and four square kilometres (50 004 km²) and comprises of seven (7) blocks numbered from seven (7) to thirteen (13), defined by the coordinates and area set forth in annex II which forms an integral part of this Decree Law.

Article 5

Zone C has an area of forty nine thousand seven hundred and twenty two square kilometres (49 722 km²), and comprises of six (6) blocks, numbered from fourteen (14) to nineteen (19), defined by the coordinates and area set forth in annex III which forms an integral part of this Decree Law.

Article 6

The blocks defined pursuant to this Decree Law will be awarded to oil and gas companies in accordance with the terms defined by the applicable laws and regulations in force in the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe.

Article 7

No single company shall, in any event, be awarded the totality of two blocks in the same exploration and production zone.

Article 8

The Agência Nacional do Petróleo (ANP-STP) is hereby given the responsibility and the powers to enforce the this Decree Law and any

ambiguity or omission shall be resolved by a joint Order issued by the Prime Minister and Head of Government and the Minister for the petroleum sector.

Article 9

This present Decree Law comes into force immediately.

Reviewed and approved by the Council of Ministers, on 26 November 2009

**The Prime Minister and Head of Government
Dr. Joaquim Rafael Branco**

**The Minister of Justice, Reform of the State and Public Administration and
Parliamentary Affairs
Dr. Justino Tavares Veiga**

**The Minister of Plan and Finance
Dra. Ângela Viegas Santiago**

**The Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment
Eng. Cristina Maria Fernandes Dias**

Promulgated on 30/12/2009

Be it published

The President of the Republic

FRADIQUE BANDEIRA MELO DE MENEZES