

INTERNATIONAL WEDDING
SARAH WAMBOI (Kenya) MARRIES
ELNUMAZURC SANTOS NEVES E SILVA (Sao
Tome and Principe)

Proud parents Domingas and Suzanne



Friends and family



Venue:

Gateway Community Church, Pontypridd, Wales on Saturday Sept 15 2007.

About the bride:

Sarah from Kenya is the daughter of Suzanne Esikhati Macharia (from Ebusikhale Sub Location, Bunyore District) and Evanson Macharia from Nyeri.

About the groom:

Elnumazurc Santos Neves E Silva is from Sao Tome & Principe. His mum is Domingas Antonia E Silva Gomes Quaresma dos Santos and dad is Manuel da Cruz dos Neves E Silva .

About Sao Tome and Principe:



History

April 2006

Country Brief last updated

São Tomé and Príncipe comprises two small tropical islands in the Gulf of Guinea, 400 kilometres off Gabon. The total population, estimated at 157,000 as of end-2005, is growing at about 2.1 percent per year. The official language is Portuguese, and the currency is the Dobra. São Tomé and Príncipe is ranked 126/177 in using the 2003 UNDP Human Development Index. As of end 2003, life expectancy at birth was 63 years, adult literacy rate 83.4 percent, and the gross enrollment ratio for education was 62 percent.

Upon attaining independence from Portugal in 1975, São Tomé and Príncipe inherited an economy based exclusively on agriculture and the production and export of a single crop, cocoa. Both the education and health indicators have generally been good compared to African averages, although they declined during the 1990s because of a lengthy economic crisis.

Political environment

Soon after independence in 1975, the government adopted a socialist rule. However, by 1985 major political and economic liberalization initiatives were undertaken. In 1990, a new multiparty constitution was adopted, and Mr. Miguel Trovoada was elected president in the first multiparty election of 1991. He was re-elected in June 1996 for a second and last term, as allowed by the constitution. The following presidential elections in July 2001 led to the victory of Mr. Fradique de Menezes for a five-year term. In July 2003, the political scene was disrupted by a bloodless military coup, but widespread international pressure, coupled with foreign mediation, resulted in it being reversed, peacefully, a week later. The discovery of oil puts São Tomé and Príncipe in a strategic political/economic position, as foreign countries are now interested in increased economic relations. The legislative election took place in late-March 2006. The election process was deemed fair by the international observers present, but has nonetheless been mired in controversy and accusations of vote buying by different political parties. The final results have not been announced yet. The next presidential election is due in July 2006.

Economic development

São Tomé and Príncipe's economy is fragile. It is burdened by a high debt per capita with a debt to GDP ratio of over 600 percent. Its productive base is undiversified, as it relies almost exclusively on cocoa exports and external donations. This has substantially increased the country's vulnerability to exogenous shocks. A long period of decline in the world price of cocoa, combined with increased import prices, put severe strains on incomes and living standards. Additional economic activities include modest fishing, handicraft industry, and tourism, which is only slowly being developed.

Following a decade of large macroeconomic imbalances and state intervention in the economy, the Sãotomean Government has pursued economic reforms since 1998 that have helped increase real GDP growth, lower inflation, and push forward key structural reforms, with the support from international donors. In 2005, economic performance remained strong (real GDP growth of 3.8 percent), although inflation picked up (17 percent) against the background of sharp increase in international oil prices that were passed on to domestic consumers.

Prospective off-shore oil production could significantly modify the medium and long-term economic outlook. The recent discovery of petroleum resources in Block 1 could signify steady petroleum production revenue for the country starting in 2010-2012. Other blocks (2, 3 and 4) have also been contracted recently and exploration for petroleum is expected to be launched in the coming year.

AT A GLANCE:

	Yr 2004
Population, total (millions)	0.2
Population growth (annual %)	2.3
Surface area (sq. km) (thousands)	1.0
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	63.3
Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	75.0
GNI (current US\$) (billions)	0.1
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	390.0

Source: World Bank

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