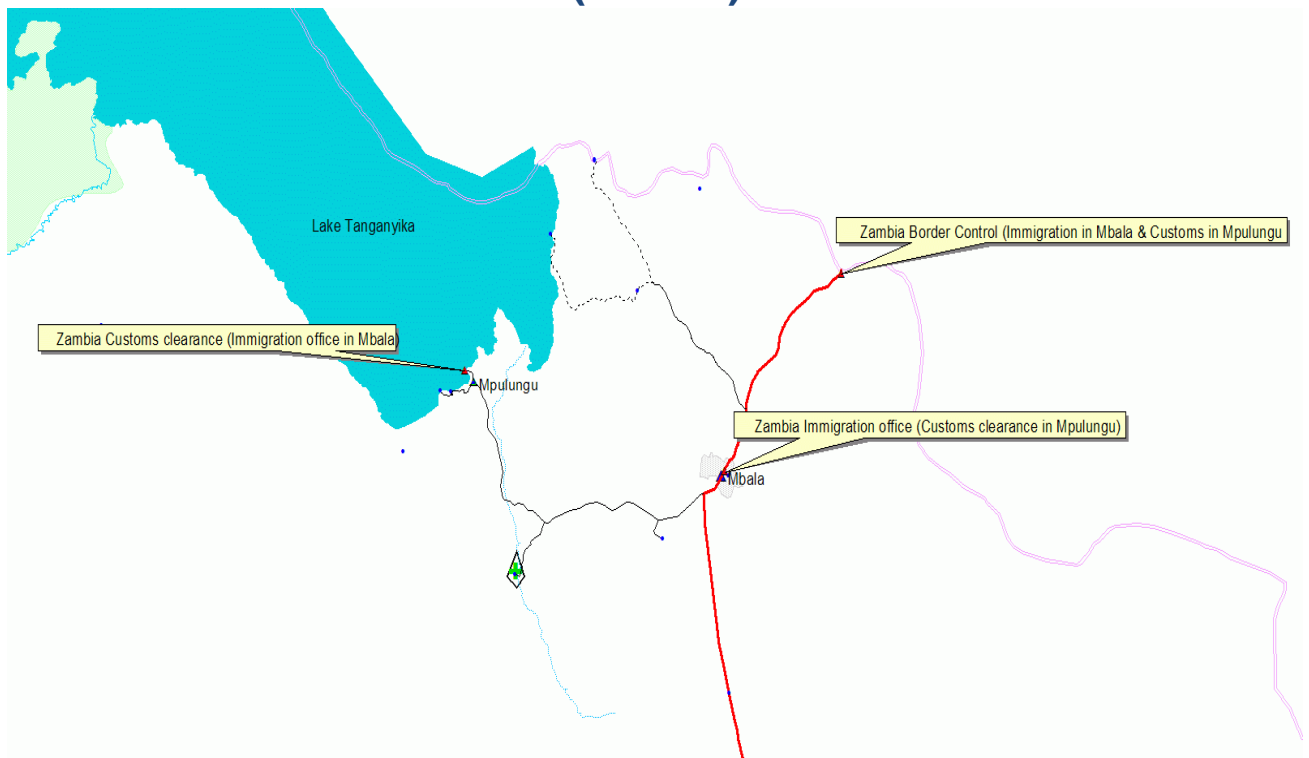


53488 Mbala Border Control (Zambia) S8.68752 E31.49255



From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Chris & Louise Horsfall
Sent: 2008 August 29 09:37
To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com
Subject: [T4A] Re: Mbala Border Control (Zambia)

Hi Louis

I received this from Tracks for Africa. I am sure that your info is more current than ours, but when we last did this trip, we suffered the same ridicule on the way south. When we were driving north again, we stopped in Kasama, with the exact complaint that you had.

We cleared immigration and took care of all of the car documentation at the railway station, since they have customs and immigration there. We told them we were going through Mbala, and that we did not have the time or inclination to drive down to Mpulungu because of the Zambian officilas lack of organisation. We had all our papers signed off in Kasama, (which is on the way to Mbala anyway), then when we got to Mbala, we drove around the gate, as everyone else does, because that sleepy old man is never there and drove straight through to the fancy new buildings in Tanzania.

Lets hope that this is still an option for travellers, maybe someone else should try and let us all know.

Chris

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** Louis van der Merwe
Sent: 2008 August 28 09:29
To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com
Subject: [T4A] Re: Mbala Border Control (Zambia)

After our suffering and driving the potholed road to Mpulungu twice I thought I had to warn others about this ridiculous situation. The immigration officer in Mbala did say that they will be upgrading the border office at the gate – Pole Pole as they say in Tanzania (slowly slowly, it's African time). However the customs officer in Mpulungu said that everyone MUST get clearance in Mpulungu – and it will remain that way.

Step 1.

There is a bank in Mpulungu to exchange cash before you go to customs. Go to customs in Mpulungu and have the vehicle cleared. You also have to pay road tax based on the size of your vehicle. We argued that we were leaving the country but that did not help, if you do not pay you do not get clearance – end of argument.

Step 2

There are two telephone numbers on the door of the immigration office in Mbala. Here you get immigration clearance ONLY (and he insists that it occurs on the same day as the customs clearance). You may then proceed to the gate AND WAIT FOR THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER FROM MBALA TO COME AND UNLOCK THE GATE. One of the locals at the gate showed me a bypass and said that we may proceed “everyone else does”, and the tracks were well used. The immigration officer followed us to the Tanzania border post and complained that we had left Zambia “illegally”.

I agree that you will have even more of a problem when crossing from Tanzania into Zambia. The Tanzanian offices have been upgraded and consist of very new grand buildings. But I do not know how you will get hold of the Zambia immigration officer (I did not check if there are phone numbers stuck on the “hokkie”). The procedure would then be to go to Mpulungu to clear the vehicle and pay your road tax.

As for Sunday – the only solution is to plan better 🌟 I also cannot answer about the yellow card as we already had ours.

Louis

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com **On Behalf Of** Wouter Brand
Sent: 27 August 2008 07:16 AM
To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com
Subject: [T4A] Re: Mbala Border Control (Zambia)

Louis,

I wrongly put the question (bottom mail) to Kinnie.. Your Mbala Border crossing refers.. Mail from Robbie below.. and can you elaborate one this one ?

From: Robbie

Sent: 2008 August 26 23:56
To: Wouter
Subject: Re: [T4A] Mbala Border Control (Zambia)

I'm a bit confused about this one.

Mpulungu is customs and border formalities for the ferry to Kigoma. Mbala does the same for crossing into Tanzania. The only thing that the Tanz. border shack doesn't handle if memory serves is the insurance, which is purchased I believe at a bank in Sumbawangu- is there suddenly a brain fart? And you will need to exchange cash. This is a situation where you will not have many opportunities to do any other place allow the way up the West side. What happens on Sunday? Yellow Card can be purchased at many towns at an insurance office near the border major border crossings in Zambia. Best to do this when you first cross. Also, I had a carnet, so that maybe the reason for customs in Mpulungu- but that still doesn't sound right to me. This is a most worthless border crossing. On both sides, due to the vast numbers of daily border crossing(next to Zero), the border staff usually need to be rounded up. If you aren't to lucky, that could take hours.

www.luangwablondes.com

From: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Wouter Brand
Sent: 2008 August 26 22:59
To: tracks4africa@googlegroups.com
Subject: [T4A] Mbala Border Control (Zambia)

Kinnie

I see you did some back and forth driving (fuel waste) to get this one sorted out.

Why on earth is this necessary.. I ask