

Chipande, Delegation Depart for PRC, DPRK

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[Text] Army General Alberto Chipande, minister of national defense, left Maputo last night on official and friendly visits to the DPRK and the PRC at the invitation of his counterparts. Alberto Chipande will visit the DPRK between 5 and 10 August, and the PRC from 10-15 August.

Speaking to our correspondent, Gen Chipande described his visits as being designed to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the three countries armies which have existed since the time of the struggle of national liberation in Mozambique. Chipande recalled that those two Asian countries actively supported our country's struggle for liberation. Today, when independent Mozambique is being attacked, its army continues to enjoy DPRK and PRC solidarity.

It is Gen Chipande's first official visit to the DPRK and the PRC. Chipande and his delegation of more than 14 members hope to carry out more studies in order to effectively play the role the Frelimo Party assigned on reorganizing the Mozambican Army. According to Gen Chipande, the reorganization is achieved through the exchange of experiences with other sister countries or armies.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Your excellency, could you tell me what issues you are going to discuss during your visits?

[Chipande] Well, the first thing we will do is report on our situation. We will mention the reorganization of our armed forces, as well as the war situation. We will look into areas of possible cooperation with our brothers, not only within the framework of our armies, but other support they can give us to aid our stepped up struggle against armed bandits and strengthen our independence, sovereignty, and social well-being.

[Reporter] So, from your visits to these two Asian countries, one can expect further support for Mozambique?

[Chipande] Certainly, yes. We believe that these issues have already been dealt with during the prime minister's visit to the PRC. The PRC gave us military support in terms of equipment, and other areas, enabling us to organize our logistics both on the battlefield and behind the lines.

During Comrade president's visit to the DPRK and the PRC, he discussed issues related to defense in order for those countries to provide us further aid. So, we are now going to find out in which areas they can assist or cooperate with us. [end recording]