

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA MUST CONTINUE

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Turning, during his Brussels press conference, to South Africa's internal policies, Prime Minister Machungo said that the latest measures by the Pretoria regime, such as the release of several political prisoners, were "positive". But he argued that international pressure on South Africa must continue in order "to speed up measures of democratization leading to the eradication of apartheid".

While in Sweden the Mozambican Prime Minister pointed out that the positive actions so far taken by de Klerk, as well as his promises to work towards the abolition of apartheid, were the result of pressure from the anti-apartheid forces inside South Africa and from the international community. Mr Machungo warned that "if there is a relaxation in the pressure, domestically or externally, then de Klerk will have no reason to carry out the promises he has made".

Prime Minister Machungo stressed that for peace in the region, it was crucial that de Klerk implement his promises. It was imperative that the international campaign of sanctions and economic boycotts against South Africa continue and Pretoria's destabilisation activities in the region must be denounced internationally.

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The Prime Minister said that improved living conditions in the countryside would only be possible "if we advance in laying the foundations for rehabilitating productive capacity and infrastructures".

As a way of advancing on this road, the government is to introduce a three year pilot programme covering forty priority districts scattered throughout the country. This would entail channelling agricultural implements to these districts, upgrading their social and economic infrastructures, and training local cadres to manage undertakings there.

The Mozambican delegation told the Consultative Group that this was part of a strategy to achieve self-sufficiency in food. The question of integrating the PRE into Mozambique's overall development project, revision of public expenditure, the transfer of the counter-value in local currency for foreign aid to finance programmes within the state budget, and the allocation of foreign inputs, were among the other themes discussed at the meeting.

Mr Machungo said that the emergency situation in Mozambique was of a "structural character". It demanded that resources available for rehabilitation should be channelled towards rural development programmes, "the only way to normalise the life of displaced people".

Immediate emergency relief and longer term acts of rehabilitation will have to be carried out simultaneously, he said, explaining that the gravity of the situation (with 5.6 million Mozambicans displaced or otherwise affected by the emergency) did not allow the country to dispense with emergency relief.

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