

[?] Sept '90

CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

The resolution passed at the end of a Central Committee meeting in Maputo, the party leadership suggested a series of changes to the draft of a new Mozambican constitution. The Central Committee reviewed the draft constitution in the light of the recent three month nationwide debate, also taking into account "the realities of the country, and the transformations in the region and the world".

The Committee voted in favour of changing the name of the country from the "People's Republic" to plain "Republic of Mozambique". The Central Committee also advocates that the parliament be called the "Assembly of the Republic" rather than the "People's Assembly", and that the "Supreme People's Court" be renamed the "Supreme Court".

Citizenship

On citizenship, the Central Committee suggest that naturalised citizens should be ineligible for election at provincial or national level (though not at the lower rungs of local government), and may not rise beyond the rank of captain in the armed forces.

Individual freedoms

The Central Committee has also accepted that the list of individual freedoms in the constitution should also explicitly mention freedom of the press, and the right of citizens to information, phrases that had been omitted from the original draft.

The resolution suggests reformulating the article in the draft on "the right to life" in order to make it clear that this abolishes the death penalty. However, the Central Committee resisted pressure from some religious quarters to put a ban on abortion into the constitution. Instead, the resolution says that abortion should be dealt with in a normal law rather than in the constitution.

Economic Recovery Programme.

The Central Committee also discussed the results of the country's IMF and World Bank supported Economic Recovery Programme, under implementation since January 1987. It noted that this had resulted in the "positive evolution" of the Mozambican economy, but called for further measures to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable strata of society.
