

MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT VISITS NAMPULA PROVINCE; EFFECTS OF 'DISORGANISATION' AND MNR 'BANDITRY'

(a) Maputo home service in Portuguese 1030 gmt 4 Oct 88

Excerpts from report on President Chissano's visit to Nampula province

The Nampula provincial government met this morning under the chairmanship of Joaquim Chissano, President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, who has been in the province since 2nd October. The meeting is being attended by the delegation accompanying him, including the ambassadors of the FRG, France, Portugal, the PRC and Cuba as well as provincial government members, district governors, and other provincial cadres who have been specially invited. The meeting began with Governor Jacob Jeremias Nhambir reading a 35-page report, giving an account of the current situation in Nampula ...

The report gives an account of the results of the economic rehabilitation programme, as well as the emergency situation. Providing figures and graphics, the report ends by stating that despite noticeable efforts made in all sectors and significant progress that has been made, a lot more could have been achieved. It mentions disorganisation prevailing in several sectors, and the failure to use resources fully and rationally ...

Turning to the emergency situation, the report mentions that there are just over 228,000 displaced people in Nampula province as a result of the war waged by armed bandits. These people have been settled in 85 centres, administrative posts and localities, wards and communal villages. The number of people affected by the war, but not displaced, stands at over 848,000 people. Thus, there are 1.76m people in an emergency situation that is, 38% of Nampula's total population.

The report stresses that Nampula residents, who used to provide food to displaced people, have stopped doing so because of a shortage of foodstuffs. It is expected that there will be a food deficit of some 200,000 t from January to May 1989, when the new crops will be harvested.

(b) Maputo in English for abroad 1100 gmt 6 Oct 88

President Joaquim Chissano said on his fourth day of a working visit to the northern province of Nampula that he neither carries guidelines in his pockets nor special solutions to the problems existing in the province. The President said his aim is to learn for himself the real situation in Nampula. His visit is also to encourage the local provincial leadership to seek alternative solutions to the various problems in the province.

Nampula has been the scene of destruction through South Africa's MNR banditry. About 80% of the factories have come under attack, some of them several times.

Sixty-six of the communal villages have been destroyed. In 1988, 591 people were murdered. The war has also substantially reduced the areas agricultural cultivation [words indistinct] for wheat are down by half compared to 1981, the best year since independence. Work on the Nacala railway line is being paralysed due to the security situation arising from MNR terrorist attacks. The government set up 85 centres for displaced people in the province.

Today, President Chissano was expected to visit the air base and the paratroops (?living) in the city of Nacala. These installations are particularly significant due to the major and increasingly successful role played by the Air Force and by Mozambican special forces in the fight against the terrorists. The President is also due to visit the Nacala cement factory, which has been rehabilitated in order to provide raw material for the plant producing concrete railway sleepers at Namialo, about 100 km to the west. President Chissano received a rousing welcome by the people on his arrival in Nacala yesterday.

Copyright (c) 1988 The British Broadcasting Corporation.