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MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT IN MALAWI: APPEAL TO MOZAMBICANS FOR UNITY

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Excerpts from recording of speech by President Chissano at a meeting with Mozambicans resident in Malawi in Blantyre on 5th July

I will focus on three issues: war, our people's unity and education in Mozambique. That is what you have asked me to do. I shall also speak about a few other issues. We have not been able to speak to you directly for a long time. It is, therefore, difficult for us to guess the extent of your understanding of the situation in Mozambique. It is difficult for us to guess the extent of your expectations. All of you here shouted "long live Frelimo". However, we don't know if you shouted "long live Frelimo" because you feel Frelimo is like a God who can solve problems from one day to the next; that Frelimo is like a God who will bring down rain when he wills; or that Frelimo is like a God who will give to each what he needs. We, therefore, don't know if that is why you shouted "long live Frelimo". It is difficult for us to imagine the extent of your expectations. We haven't had time to meet occasionally and discuss our problems.

However, there is one thing we can guess. Since we arrived here, we have felt that there is trust in Frelimo. That we know. There is trust in Frelimo as a vanguard party of the entire Mozambican people. There is trust that Frelimo can guide us and lead us to victory. But what kind of victory? Victory does not merely mean the elimination of armed banditry. Victory means achieving the objectives that have always been the objectives of our struggle for national liberation.

In the first place, victory means a Mozambican should feel free to participate in his country's development, that the Mozambican people should feel free to offer their physical and intellectual potential to develop their country. When we feel that the Mozambican people, every Mozambican man and every Mozambican woman, every Mozambican child, are giving their best, we shall, then, be able to count on the potential of the Mozambican people. We shall be able to say that the Mozambican man and the the Mozambican woman are truly free. This is the meaning of independence. . .

All we wanted from the Portuguese was our freedom. We asked nothing else of them. When we negotiated with them, there was nothing else we demanded, apart from our freedom. That is the only thing we demanded. But, now, we tell the Portuguese that if they want to assist us, we are ready to co-operate. We want to co-operate and I think that is the reason why you are here - whoever you may be may - a businessman, teacher, carpenter, mason, official, co-operativist, employee of a state enterprise which looks after your interests and so on.

In Mozambique there is no room for any other party. It is not because Frelimo has decided that. The Frelimo party itself is the result of union of a several forces which fought in Mozambique. Accordingly, it is not Frelimo that will demand that forces should now unite [as heard]. It is because the Mozambican people are already united behind and around Frelimo. The entire Mozambican people are already united around Frelimo, be they card-bearing members or without card. They support Frelimo. [applause].

What is more, we have moved forward to consolidate our unity. We have opened doors and said: those who have left, please come back. You will be welcomed [applause]. . .

Very often, when we reoccupy areas [of Mozambique], we discover the residents have sought refuge in Malawi, or Zambia, or Zimbabwe, or even South Africa. We tell them they must prepare themselves to return home because we cannot leave our lands empty. They must find courage and return to resettle in those areas and prevent the armed bandits from coming back. The more empty land, the more the enemy will manoeuvre.

My second issue is linked to the war. I see young men, I see many young men here. You must know that compulsory military service is every Mozambican's duty. In Mozambique, we are organising all the people so every Mozambican can defend himself and his family, his children, parents and grandparents. This is because our armed forces cannot be in every corner of the country, in every village, to protect our people. Even if we had 500,000 soldiers, it would be impossible to station soldiers in every village to protect our people. That is why every Mozambican should be able to defend himself against armed bandits; to defend himself in an organised way, so when armed bandits come to a village there is no panic. The people should not all run away. They should resist. The armed bandits should find resistance everywhere they go in Mozambique.

When we began this kind of work, some people came to ask us if we were afraid. How will you control the weapons you give to the peoples? We told them we are in no way afraid of our people. We have full trust in our people, because our people defend Frelimo and they defend their government, because this government belongs to the people. Accordingly, those outside the country should know they have a duty to perform - that is, compulsory military service, to join the armed forces. Above all, they have the duty to prepare themselves to defend their home when they return home, particularly those who are here, outside temporarily, and are preparing to return to Mozambique. They have this duty to prepare themselves. It is not just to prepare themselves to fight against the armed bandits at their bases but to defend their gardens to defend the factory where they work, to defend a mill, to defend a car or a tractor. That is what we mean. This is possible only with unity.

I said earlier that we would speak about these two issues, of unity and war. This is only possible when there is unity among the people, when there is unity between the people and the government, when there is unity between the people and the party, when the party and the people are only one body and when the government and the people are just one body. To achieve this, we need organisation. That is why the work

you are carrying out to create an association of Mozambicans living in Malawi is important, so that you may know each other [applause]. So that you may all know the goal you should aim to reach at every phase, so you have a venue where you can listen to watchwords to solve the Mozambican people's problems, which are also the problems of all of us.

That is the reason why I put aside some of the issues raised here, because some of you would have asked: What about supply in Mozambique, what about telecommunications, will we have shoes there or not, and so on. All these problems will be automatically resolved once these two problems of unity and war are resolved. All these problems will be resolved once we can solve the problem of organisation and the problem of freeing our potential. This is because all these things I have mentioned should be carried out by us. All these things must be produced by us. All these things will come from our skills. Water, food, bed, houses, will all depend on our skills. There is nobody else who will do this for us.

Some will say you just have to go to the World Bank and get money. to go to the World Bank and get money to solve one's problems! Well, they will give you the money but when they come back for it, they come to acquire the whole country [applause]. They will loan you the money, but they also tell you that you have to pay so much interest. They will tell you that you may repay the amount 20 years from now, that is not a problem, but you have to pay this much interest. If you add up the interest we will be paying them, we find out in the end that they own the whole country. That is why our watchword should, in the first place, be to rely on our efforts and potential. We must rely on our own efforts.

You congratulated us for opening a consulate. The consulate has one primary task. The primary task is to enable us to go to the consulate and see how many Mozambicans live in Malawi, those who went there voluntarily to register themselves. This would permit the consulate to organise, solve or help solve some problems which are within its sphere, the problems facing Mozambicans outside. There are Mozambicans who have problems with certificates. There are Mozambicans who are arrested, sometimes because of thuggery. Still, the consulate must always know. If one is not registered, we would not know whether this one is a thug, a Mozambican, or a professional thief.

I think the consulate is waiting for you to register, apart from forming the association where you will resolve your own problems as a united body. However, the consulate, as a government representation caring for your interests, must have your names registered in the consulate. We recommend that you register at the consulate. You do not have to wait until you face problems to appear at the consulate. You should go there now.

We are happy that you are organising yourselves. In other countries, there are similar organisations of Mozambicans, associations of Mozambicans. In Angola, there is a very active organisation, although it is mainly composed of women. It is very active indeed and it already has written statutes. It is already recognised by the Angolan government. We have an association of Mozambicans in Zimbabwe. We have an association of Mozambicans in Zambia. An association of Mozambicans is about to be formed in Tanzania. . .