

**Chissano Closes Frelimo Party Conference 24 Jul**  
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[Speech by President Joaquim Chissano at the close of the Frelimo Party's Second National Conference in Maputo on 24 July—live]

[Text] The end of these proceedings coincides with 24 July, the day of the nationalizations. This is a coincidence which (?further draws our attention) to the gains we have secured during our revolutionary process. We have arrived at the end of these proceedings after 5 days of fruitful talks, which warmed this room and enriched all participants at this meeting.

Each of us enjoyed the rare privilege of listening to voices from all over the country. This is what our party does when it tries to point the way at decisive stages in the life of the country.

The Frelimo Party's Second National Conference was a high moment of reflection in the life of the Frelimo Party and the life of the Mozambican nation. During this time, we used the yardstick of democratic dialogue to measure our country's situation.

Now, each of us has a wider and more complete view of the problems facing our party and the Mozambican revolution. Each one of us had the opportunity to listen to the opinions and proposals presented by delegates from all parts of the country. They are young and old, men and women, they are militants who come from all fronts of the struggle for progress and the defense of the fatherland.

We have heard all kinds of speeches and, almost always, time was too short to satisfy all the delegates and guests who were due to speak. It may seem that during the talks speakers focused on the negative aspects of our lives, rather than on the positive work done by the party and government, as well as the gains we have achieved.

Time did not allow us to do that. It was important to point out errors, distortions, deficiencies and the obstacles in our path. However, each speaker clearly showed his concern was how best to defend and consolidate gains and to create conditions to achieve new and greater victories in the shortest possible time.

Comrades: This important moment, part of a long process in keeping with our party's political tradition, analyzed our militants' main concerns at this time. This was done through meetings and wide democratic discussions. We salute the open and frank manner in which [words indistinct] even the most delicate issues, thus contributing to political growth in each of us.

We would like to stress the fact that these speakers were able to convey to this conference the concerns, viewpoints and proposals which arose from the grassroots. This was possible only because there are no taboos in the Frelimo Party. The militants are not forbidden from discussing any issue whatsoever.

Thus, we were able to verify that there are common views on the main problems, irrespective of each speaker's province or district of origin. We can state that there is national consensus on our country's major issues and future. The discussions confirmed the militants' clear support for the Frelimo Party's fundamental principles. There is trust in the party leadership and there is awareness of the need to increase the party's leading role over the state and society.

The serenity and clarity with which the delegates and guests spoke and analyzed the relevant issues have strengthened our trust in the party's leading role and assured us that problems, both great and small, will be justly resolved on the basis of the experience gained by the people in the course of the revolutionary process in Mozambique.

The party's Second National Conference has also shown us that our militants are now mature. This maturity was evident in the clarity and depth of their speeches here. Our party has achieved new quality, despite the fact that the party apparatus has not kept pace with that development. We were able to verify that this corresponds to a

new discussion of old issues or a new state [words indistinct] popular, and the principles, however correct, will not help achieve the revolution's aims if they are not applied within the context of the national reality, at the right historic moment, and taking into account the productive forces' degree of development.

It has become clear that we will not be able to advance our revolution through stagnation or through very slow development of the productive forces. As long as this situation continues, our dependence will continue [words indistinct]. Progressively, but within the shortest possible time, we must be able to exploit the enormous potential provided by our country's soil, subsoil and water. The fundamental aim is the development of the Mozambican man. The reflections emanating from this conference will constitute a series of analyses so that our Frelimo Party Central Committee can issue guidelines and outline the themes to be discussed at the Frelimo Party's Fifth Congress.

Comrades are not going to repeat here the points that we heard when the conference's final document was read. However, there was obvious unity of opinion on the need to use every available means to fight and eliminate armed banditry so that we can rebuild our country, and create our people's well-being, happiness and progress. Your speeches have shown that it is important that we work together to reduce regional imbalances in our country's social and economic development. We must regain the spirit that led us during the first years of our independence. We must redefine a strategy of balanced development on the basis of the experience that we have acquired within the context of the national reality.

We are deeply convinced that national unity remains alive and solid. In this room, we have repeatedly stated that national unity was a powerful instrument in our successive victories against Portuguese colonialism and against Ian Smith's racist minority regime. It continues as our main instrument in the struggle against armed banditry and for development. However, comrades, delegates and guests, we must (?know how to preserve) and strengthen. We must continue striving vigorously against all divisionist factors, such as tribalism, racism, regionalism, nepotism, and [word indistinct]. Unity must be consolidated around our party's aims as enshrined in our statutes and in our program. Within this context, we must distinguish between short-term aims and long-terms aims.

There is a need for us to discuss our problems in a better, more open, and (?decisive) manner, to demonstrate and broaden our democracy, which has always characterized the Mozambican revolution. We were able to observe this continually in the contributions that were made here. During our preliminary discussions as well as during the conference [words indistinct] fundamental to motivate and involve all levels of society in different national tasks.

It is in this framework that the mass democratic organizations and other organizations have an increasingly important role in our society. Through our militants, cadres, delegates, and guests, during this national party conference, we were able to hear a message of love for our people. We were able to show here that we are trying with a clear conscience to know our enemy and to consolidate in unity the Mozambican nation. We want to reinforce our unity of ideas, the unity of our citizens, and the unity of effort by every Mozambican to build the fatherland.

Comrades, we have concluded the Second National Party Conference. The mission that has brought us together has been fulfilled. We congratulate the delegates and guests for the seriousness with which they conducted the conference's proceedings. We are ready to correct the mistakes that we have made and to consolidate our just options and correct stances. We are ready to aggrandize the name of our party, so that those who have died and those who continue to die for our cause may be eternally honored and their sacrifices enhanced.

Accordingly, let us immediately use all our strength and determination on preparing for the Fifth Frelimo Party Congress. Some of the shortcomings that were brought up during our debates and the seminars that preceded this conference must be overcome as we prepare for the congress. To make this possible, we count on the initiative and daring of our cadres. Our cadres with specific tasks within the state apparatus must always be determined to fulfill our party objectives and must not be happy with limited technical work, which cannot be carried out because it does not conform with the general implementation of the program laid down by our party, which is our society's leading force. There should be no division between leading cadres in our party organs and apparatus and those in the state organs and apparatus. On the contrary, we must all be aware of our role as party militants and cadres.

As we try to overcome our shortcomings, correct our mistakes, and increase efficiency in our work within the party, the mass democratic organizations, as well as state organizations, we must bear in mind that we find ourselves at a decisive stage in the struggle one and for all to eliminate armed banditry and rehabilitate our economy.

The tasks ahead of us must be carried out in all seriousness. They should not be seen merely as tasks aimed at preparing for our fifth congress. They must become a continuous and unstoppable process of economic, social, and cultural development. They must become a continuous and unstoppable process of building our national unity. They must become a process for greater consolidation of our national independence and for the improvement of our living conditions. We wish you all a safe return to your provinces, districts, and workplaces.

The struggle continues! [audience shouts: "continues"]  
[applause]