

Chissano Address Session

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[Speech by Joaquim Chissano, Frelimo Party chairman and Mozambican president, at the opening of the ninth Frelimo Party Central Committee session in Maputo on 26 July—recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades, we being the Frelimo Party Central Committee ninth session still enriched by the experience of the Second National Party Conference which ended a few days ago. We greet with affection the Central Committee members, and, as we do so, we would like to remember our beloved Comrade Ernesto Lucas, a veteran of the armed struggle for the national liberation and a member of the Central Committee, who died of an illness recently. In his memory, I propose that we observe 1 minute of silence. [pause]

Dear comrades, our session will center on three fundamental issues related to preparations for the forthcoming fifth congress. We shall discuss the report of the Fifth Congress National Preparatory Commission. We shall examine the results of the Second National Party Conference to determine the essential lines that will guide proposed themes of the fifth congress. We shall also focus our discussions on the party election directives and on the elections of delegates.

The Second National Party Conference engendered a fertile process of discussions at different levels of our party organs. With maturity and thoroughness, the delegates and guests were able to pinpoint problems and propose solutions. This greatly enriched the themes brought forward following the preparatory discussions.

We could say that seven fundamental issues were raised at the conference. On the party, we were able to discuss the party's nature, its line, party statutes and programs, party membership conditions, party operations, party style and methods of work, and party organs from top to bottom.

We also discussed democracy in the party and in our society and the policy of selecting cadres and cadre training and management. On national unity, we were able to recall the importance and the role of national unity in the past, and during our country's present situation. Factors jeopardizing this were examined.

Our country's imbalanced development was seen as an issue which affects the unity of our nation. Methods were proposed to overcome this. Other issues raised by the participants include the nature and role of mass democratic organizations and the professional and social organizations, and their operation and working methods, in an effort to ensure our people's increasing involvement in these areas. The conference also focussed its discussion on the relationship between the party and these organs.

On the war which is a central problem in our country, the delegates expressed satisfaction with the victories reached at the fighting fronts. Accordingly, they examined the continuing reorganization of our defense and security forces and presented several proposals. The people's defense and the need to arm and equip our people in our militia forces was seen as a determining factor for the success of the struggle against banditry.

Other issues raised by several participants included economic development and rehabilitation, and its positive effects and the difficulties arising from its application in the life of people. The participants also stressed the effect of war as well as the strategy of economic reconstruction program and its subsequent results. Participants paid great attention to the development of economic cooperation and international economic relations, the defense of the socialist sector, and the strategy of establishing cooperatives in rural areas. The impact and role of war in our society, and issues connected with education, health, justice, housing, the need to provide our people with essential requirements, our society's development and improvement of living conditions of the broad masses are social issues that also received major attention.

With regard to international relations, the participants examined the development of the regional and world situation, and the existing relationship of the Frelimo Party and the People's Republic of Mozambique with other parties and governments in the region, our continent, and worldwide. Our party and government's objectives and tactics were also discussed.

These major issues and specific points raised at our party conference must be examined in depth and discussed during this ninth Frelimo Party Central Committee session to enable the Central Committee to adopt stances and make decisions.

It is not worth repeating what we have already discussed at lower levels and during the party conference. What is important now is our general reflection on what has been discussed, so the proposed guidelines and themes may match the objectives needs of the present phase of our struggle to defend the fatherland, build socialism, and restore peace.

Comrades, as we begin this session, we have begun our popular preparatory process to discuss the themes that will guide our debates during the fifth congress.

During this period, more than ever before, it is our great responsibility, as members of the Central Committee, to guide our popular discussions which have always enriched our party. Let us once again display the confidence that other militants have placed in us. Let us prepare the fifth congress with humility and reflection, thoroughness and the trust that has been bestowed on us.

The struggle continues! [applause]