

Chissano's New Year Message to Nation
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[President Joaquim Alberto Chissano's New Year message to the nation on 31 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear Mozambican men and women, compatriots: 1988 will end a few hours from now, and we will enter 1989. At this time of traditional joy for the whole world and for our people, we would like to wish a happy, festive season and a prosperous New Year to all Mozambicans.

The year 1988 was characterized by hard and productive work on the various fronts in our struggle to defend the fatherland, and consolidate national independence and economic recovery. The Mozambican people once again responded to the Frelimo Party's call with courage, selflessness, and a spirit of sacrifice and determination to win the struggle. Our people engaged in the country's development tasks and fought adversities arising from the war and the effects of natural disasters. The people's response to our problems encourages our party and government to continue their struggle, because they know they are on the right path. It has always been our party's tradition to find in our people the inspiration and strength to carry out the revolution's tasks.

Compatriots, 1988 was the second year of the Economic Rehabilitation Program [PRE]. Our results this year have encouraged us to redouble efforts so that next year will be even better. In fact, from the beginning of 1988 it was our desire to continue implementing the PRE, with the ultimate aim of reducing foreign dependence, consolidating the gains we have already achieved, and eliminating the [words indistinct]. The Mozambican Government's efforts and sacrifices resulted in substantial progress, notably in the areas of agriculture, where production exceeded that of 1987, and in supplies to the people. We continued to work to revitalize the various sectors of the national economy, and we stimulated agricultural and rural development. We launched economic, financial and fiscal measures that resulted in increased productivity, efficiency and sufficiency in the production and family sectors. We were able to see how local initiatives helped our defense and economic efforts.

The positive impact of all these measures would have been even greater were it not for the natural disasters that have continued to hit our country, and for the war of destabilization being waged against us from outside through the armed bandits. To help those people faced with an emergency situation, there was a major movement of national solidarity which made money and

goods available and, above all, granted moral support and a family environment to needy people in general, and to orphans and children who had become separated from their relatives in particular. We would like to express our sincere thanks for this humanitarian gesture by the Mozambican families.

It is with patriotic pride and joy that we salute the Mozambican people from the Rovuma River to the Maputo River on their political, military, economic and social achievements in 1988. Compatriots, the year that is about to begin will be the third year of the PRE's implementation. Maintaining and elevating the growth rate of the economy will demand even greater dedication and selflessness from all Mozambican people, so that we can consolidate our gains and increase our country's development.

We will have to accept that sacrifices will be required each time so that we can free ourselves from misery. The Mozambican Government must guarantee that the state plan and the state general budget will become effective and that there will be conditions to implement it from the beginning of the year, particularly at the district level, which are the grass roots for our development.

Our policies next year must realistically respond to our people's daily problems. Production in our war situation will demand that action and resources be combined in the defense and economic sectors. It will demand that each Mozambican family continue to give its best in order to obtain satisfactory results. We have reasons to be optimistic. Let us combine our efforts so that we can take more steps toward our goals in 1989.

Compatriots, the forces supporting continued colonial domination and exploitation have continued to work against our people's determination, desire to be independent, and sovereignty. Those forces have found their main weapon in armed banditry. The enemy's principal aim continues to be impeding our country's development, creating unhappiness among the people, and placing our state and revolution in jeopardy.

The result of armed bandit action is the destruction of infrastructures, production units, transportation vehicles, communication routes, schools, hospitals and shops. Defenseless people are terrorism's preferred targets. Terrorism disorganizes economic structures, sabotages and destroys communications routes in order to impede the normal movement of people and goods as well as to prevent the necessary communication between the rural and urban areas. Despite the many major diplomatic and military defeats the enemy has suffered, it still tries to recapture lost positions. To fight and eliminate armed banditry in our fatherland is a principal task, and one which we must broaden and intensify. This is a struggle that must be carried without any kind of hesitation or compromise. The defense and security forces' main concern must be to intensify combat action

so that the enemy will be completely eliminated. We must improve the citizen's self-defense and reorganize the Mozambican Armed Forces in both urban and rural areas.

We hereby call on all Mozambican people to actively participate in the fatherland's defense and national reconstruction tasks in 1989. Let us courageously and patriotically engage ourselves increasingly in the struggle to eliminate armed banditry, so that we can continue building our socialist fatherland in peace.

In 1988, there was great popular involvement in the preparations for the Frelimo Party's fifth congress, notably in the study and dissemination of its plans and theories. 1989 will be the year of the fifth congress. We must now begin to intensify preparations.

All mass, social, and professional organizations must add their efforts to those of the Frelimo Party and the Mozambican Government by involving an increasingly larger number of citizens. The year of the fifth congress must be a year of concrete achievements and contributions that will permit better organization of our lives and our work. These must be concrete contributions toward increased production and productivity, and a better use of resources, austerity, and against [word indistinct], robberies and corruption. There must be greater achievements in the fields of culture, education and sports.

Through the combined efforts of the people, government structures and social organizations, we must do everything to improve social assistance services, especially for those people who are in greatest need. We must do this at every level on the basis of what we have learned this year and the work we have begun. We must make decisive efforts to increase our self-defense through the improved organization of residents in each ward, village, hamlet, district and province as well as the workers in each work place. We must do everything to keep hands and brains occupied. Let us increasingly use the demobilized armed forces in concrete national reconstruction tasks and in the defense of their residential and work areas.

Initiatives must be taken to offer productive and paid work, even if only [word indistinct] and casual, to unemployed people. Military or civilian people maimed by war must never be regarded as useless or unable to do work. They must use all their physical and mental capabilities for their own benefit, by acquiring knowledge and by learning about and adapting themselves to new lifestyles and work. Let us become more dedicated, so that displaced people, especially those who are returning from armed bandit captivity, may resume their normal lives and be more successful. Some 3,000 former armed bandits who were instruments of terror against our people, including some former bandit ringleaders, and hundreds of thousands of people previously living in armed bandit captivity have turned themselves in to our authorities under the terms of the amnesty law.

Un this message of peace and national unity, we formally announce that the People's Assembly fifth session has approved the extension of the amnesty law, which will remain in force throughout 1989. Thus, the Mozambican Government intends to extend the measure that allowed lives to be saved and promoted harmoy in the nation in 1988. We must give special attention to those who have benefited from the amnesty law, so that they can take pride in their praiseworthy decisions to abandon terrorism and to contribute to their country's construction instead of its destruction. We must give them the opportunity to actively share in these tasks without complications.

Compatriots, as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the people's justice in our fatherland, we are also completing the building of this fundamental sector of state power. With the appointment of the magistrates to the People's Supreme Court and to the Attorney General's Office these organs will become functional and will contribute to consolidating our socialist legal system. As anywhere else in the world, our country and our people demand justice, respect for human dignity and for the peoples, the elimination of despotism, and a balance of individual and collective interests. Thus, to guarantee the execution of justice is a demand by man in society. Justice is a fundamental element in organized society. It is with great pride that we see justice workers being trained throughout the country. They do this with dignity. With their experience and competence, they give prestige to our people's justice.

Compatriots, during 1988, the People's Republic of Mozambique developed intensive diplomatic work with the aim of promoting greater knowledge about the country abroad and of creating a climate of greater understanding, coexistence and peace. To this end, we received important visits, among which the visit by Pope John Paul II, the spiritual leader of the Catholic Church, is especially noteworthy. The pope visited our country at our invitation. His visit contributed to strengthening national unity, because all Mozambicans, without any religious distinctions, did everything to welcome that illustrious guest with warmth and to allow him to learn about our problems.

We can also say that, internationally, our country has become more widely known and more privileged following the pope's visit. We must know how (?to consolidate) this gain, by undertaking cooperative actions next year that will keep us united through work for our country's development. The state can and must provide better guidance regarding each person's participation, so that there will be true cooperation with all religious organizations.

Mozambican men and women, compatriots, 1989 will be a year of struggle for the Mozambican fatherland's defense and progress. We will continue to develop our action in the political economic, military and diplomatic fronts until armed banditry has been eliminated, so that we can guarantee that the Mozambican people's aims and interests will be secured through defending the

fatherland, establishing peace and tranquility in the country, and strengthening friendship and cooperation with other peoples and countries.

As we said earlier, the year that is approaching will be the year of the Frelimo Party's fifth congress. In 1989, we will also finish reviewing the Constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The study and discussion of plans concerning the revision of the Constitution give us hope for success in formulating our development and peace policies, which are part of the Mozambican fatherland's Constitution.

The struggle against terrorism, famine, nakedness and misery is a principal factor in the successful implementation of the PRE. To this end, we must implement those tasks and fulfill our duties as Mozambican citizens. In every workplace, in the defense and security forces, in the democratic mass organizations, in the social and professional organizations, in schools, and in the health centers, we must redouble our efforts on every front of the national reconstruction struggle.

In the last few hours of 1988, our thoughts go to those who are on the battlefield. Those people are generously and gallantly continuing the struggle against crime and terror. We hereby warmly salute the FPLM soldiers and all defense and security forces as well as our officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers. Everywhere in the country, these forces are safeguarding the Mozambican people's lives and possessions. They are thwarting attempts to destroy our hard won independence and sovereignty.

We hereby express fraternal solidarity with and convey hope to the thousands of Mozambicans who have lost their homes and possessions because of the war, and who are now forced to live in camps for displaced people or to take refuge in other countries. We are with all those in the war areas who are daily threatened by the enemy and who, despite risks to their own lives, continue to work in their own plantations or for the local cooperatives, and who continue to defend their hospitals and schools.

We hereby salute all workers, peasants, artisans, businessmen, technicians, artists, and sportsmen who are contributing to our fatherland's development and prestige in their areas of work.

We also want to salute the Mozambican women, youths, students, and those who carry on the revolution for the dedication and courage they have displayed in effecting their tasks. We hope that their aspirations will materialize in 1989. Our warm salutes are also intended for all foreign workers and technicians, guest workers and internationalists who are working with us for the progress of our country and of all of us.

Compatriots, it is with great warmth that I wish you all a happy New Year, much health and happiness. I hope that love, friendship, trust, joy, peace and tranquility will become consolidated in each home, each family, and each Mozambican. To all, I wish good health, good work and successes in 1989.

The struggle continues! The revolution will win! Socialism will triumph!