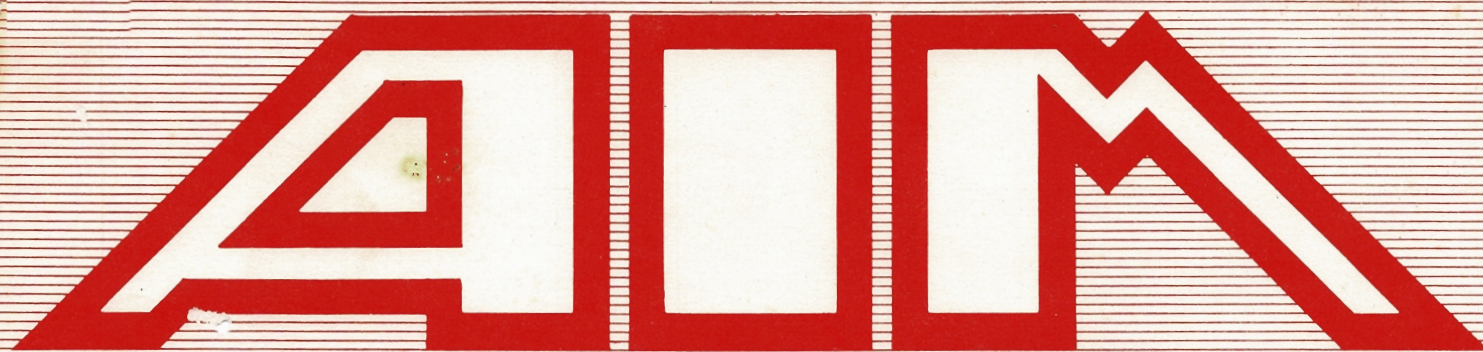


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AGÊNCIA DE INFORMAÇÃO DE MOÇAMBIQUE

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THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF MOZAMBIQUE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique

On 20 June 1975, five days before independence, the Central Committee of FRELIMO approved by acclamation the Constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique. A little over three years later, on 13 August 1978, various amendments to the Constitution were approved by the People's National Assembly. These are in italics.

PREAMBLE

'Mozambicans,

Workers and peasants, workers in the plantations, in the sawmills, and in the concessions, workers in the mines, in the railways, in the harbours and in the factories, intellectuals, civil servants, students, Mozambican soldiers in the Portuguese army, men and women, young people, compatriots:

In the name of all of you,

FRELIMO today solemnly proclaims the general armed insurrection of the Mozambican people against Portuguese colonialism, for the conquest of Mozambique's total and complete independence.

Our struggle will not cease until the complete liquidation of Portuguese colonialism.

It was with these words that almost eleven years ago, on 25 September 1964, the Central Committee of FRELIMO issued the historic slogan for the launching of the general armed insurrection against Portuguese colonialism and imperialism.

This slogan met with a deep response from among the broad masses who, from the Rovuma to the Maputo, were

equally submitted to the savage rule of the occupier, to the greediness of his exploitation, the infamy of his continuing humiliation.

Throughout the whole historical process of the war of conquest, the Mozambican people everywhere continually rose heroically against colonial greed. From the resistance of Monomotapa to the insurrection of Barue, Mozambican history can pride itself on the glorious feats of the masses in their struggle to defend freedom and independence. The historic resistance of the People owed its defeat exclusively to the treachery of the feudal ruling classes, to their greed and ambition, which enabled the enemy to divide the people and thus subjugate them.

Even after colonial domination was entrenched throughout the territory, opposition to foreign domination persisted and was even intensified: there were successive revolts against the colonial administration, an increasing exodus of workers abroad, and protest movements were organised in the urban areas.

The transformation of colonialism into colonial-fascism did not succeed in stifling the determination of the People, but sharpened the existing contradictions.

The liquidation of nazism, the creation of the socialist camp, the victory of China, the defeat of the colonial armies in Indochina, the Algerian uprising, and the emancipation of the African and Asian peoples, all stimulated national resistance.

Though still disorganised, there were popular uprisings like those in Mueda and Xinavane. The bloodshed of the

workers who were imprisoned, deported, murdered and massacred served to increase national consciousness.

It was in this context that on 25 June 1962, Mozambican patriots, under the leadership of Comrade Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, launched a new and victorious phase of national resistance: the creation of FRELIMO, which made possible the Mozambican people's organised and united struggle.

The creation of FRELIMO provided the decisive and fundamental weapon of unity for the Mozambican people's fight. FRELIMO, rooting itself in the purest traditions of the age-old struggle of the Mozambican working masses, assuming the true interests of the broad exploited, oppressed and humiliated strata, was able to define clearly the aims and methods of the fight for liberation.

In two years, under the slogan of unity and struggle against Portuguese colonialism and imperialism, FRELIMO created the necessary conditions for the liberation struggle to go over to the phase of general armed insurrection, thus cementing and making operative the unity achieved.

It was under the leadership of FRELIMO, and integrated in the tasks of FRELIMO, that the Mozambican people redeemed the blood spilled over generations, regained command of their own history, made useful the sacrifice of their own lives, destroyed the enemy's vital forces, fully affirmed their African revolutionary personality, and imposed defeat on the colonial-fascist regime.

It was under the direction of FRELIMO, guided by the political line clear in the formulation of objectives and in the definition of the enemy, that the

Mozambican people defeated the Portuguese colonial army.

In the name of all of you, at 00 hours today, 25 June 1975, the Central Committee of FRELIMO solemnly proclaims the total and complete independence of Mozambique, and the creation of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The newly-born Republic is the concretisation of the aspirations of all Mozambicans, the extension to the whole country of the freedom already conquered during the liberation armed struggle in some areas of our country, the product of the sacrifices of nationalist fighters, the whole Mozambican People, the concretisation of our victory.

Our People's Republic is born from the blood of the people. Its consolidation and development is a debt of honour for every patriotic and revolutionary Mozambican.

The sovereign and independent People's Republic of Mozambique is a People's Democratic State, in which all patriotic strata under the leadership of the alliance of peasants and workers are engaging themselves in the struggle to destroy the vestiges of colonialism and imperialist dependence, to eliminate the exploitation of man by man, and build the new material, ideological, political, cultural, social and administrative base of the new society.

The People's Republic of Mozambique, a State of the Mozambican working people, will be guided by FRELIMO, an instrument for the organisation and the mobilisation of the Mozambican People in the struggle for national liberation, which shall continue to guide the people in the new phase of the struggle for the building of the people's democratic State, for rebuilding the nation, for liquidating the exploitation of man by man.

Born of the liberation struggle for national independence, the People's Republic of Mozambique is in fundamental solidarity with national liberation movements, and militant internationalism is a basic constant of its national and international policies.

Mozambicans, women and men:

This is the first State in which power belongs to us, this is our own country, born out of the plunder, ruins, sacrifices and bloodshed.

We salute our flag, symbol of our

victory, and we salute its honourable insignias of study, work and struggle.

United under the leadership of FRELIMO from the Rovuma to the Maputo, dedicated to the liberating work that is the basis for all things, with the banner of vigilance raised high, let us build, consolidate and develop our State and Power, and our Victory.

PART I

General Principles

ARTICLE 1

The People's Republic of Mozambique, the fruit of the Mozambican People's centuries-old resistance and their heroic and victorious struggle, under the leadership of FRELIMO, against Portuguese colonial domination and imperialism, is a sovereign, independent and democratic State.

ARTICLE 2

The People's Republic of Mozambique is a State based on people's democracy in which all patriotic strata engage in building a new society, free from the exploitation of man by man.

In the People's Republic of Mozambique power belongs to the workers and peasants, united and led by FRELIMO, and is exercised by the organs of people's power.

ARTICLE 3

The People's Republic of Mozambique is guided by the political line laid down by FRELIMO, which is the leading force of the State and Society. FRELIMO lays down the basic political orientation of the State and directs and supervises the work of state organs, in order to ensure that the State policy is in conformity with the people's interests.

ARTICLE 4

The People's Republic of Mozambique has the following fundamental objectives:

- the elimination of colonial and traditional structures of oppression and exploitation and the mentality that underlies them;
- the extension and strengthening of people's democratic power;
- the building of an independent economy and the promotion of cultural and social progress;
- the defence and consolidation of

- national independence and unity;
- *the building of people's democracy and the construction of the material and ideological foundations of a socialist society;*
- the establishment and development of friendly relations and cooperation with other peoples and States;
- the pursuit of the struggle against colonialism and imperialism.

ARTICLE 5

As an essential element of State power, the Mozambique People's Liberation Forces have a fundamental responsibility for the defence and consolidation of national independence and unity. At the same time they are a force for production and for the political mobilisation of the masses of the people.

The activity and development of the Mozambique People's Liberation Forces are based on FRELIMO's political leadership and on close links with the people.

Participation in the Mozambique People's Liberation Forces, with its great tradition of struggle, heroism and identification with the revolutionary cause of the people, is an honour and a sacred duty for all citizens, of both sexes, of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Mozambique People's Liberation Forces, and of the paramilitary, police and security forces, shall be the President of FRELIMO.

The Commander-in-Chief has the power to appoint and dismiss top ranking officers and cadres of the military, paramilitary, police and security forces.

ARTICLE 6

The People's Republic of Mozambique, taking agriculture as the base and industry as the propelling and decisive factor, directs its economic policy towards wiping out underdevelopment and creating conditions for raising the living standards of the working people. In pursuing this aim, the State essentially relies on the creative force of the people and on the country's economic resources, giving total support to agricultural production, promoting adequate development of productive enterprises, and undertaking the exploitation of natural resources. In the process of building an advanced economic base for the People's Republic of Mozambique, the State shall proceed

to eliminate the exploitation of man by man.

ARTICLE 7

In the People's Republic of Mozambique work is esteemed and protected, and is the driving force of development. Work is the right and duty of every citizen of either sex, and it is the criterion for the distribution of national wealth.

ARTICLE 8

The land and the natural resources of the soil and sub-soil, of the territorial waters and continental shelf of Mozambique, are the property of the State. The State determines the conditions for their development and use.

The People's Republic of Mozambique recognises the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States adopted by the 29th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation.

ARTICLE 9

The State promotes and plans the economy with a view to guaranteeing the correct development of the country's wealth and its use for the benefit of the Mozambican people.

ARTICLE 10

In the People's Republic of Mozambique the State economic sector is the leading and driving factor in the national economy.

State property is given special protection, its development and expansion being the responsibility of all State organs, social organisations and citizens.

ARTICLE 11

The State encourages individual peasants and workers to organise themselves in collective forms of production, whose development it supports and guides.

ARTICLE 12

The State recognises and guarantees personal property.

ARTICLE 13

Obligations are attached to private property. Private property cannot be used to the detriment of the interests defined in the Constitution.

Income and private property are subject to progressive taxes, established on the basis of criteria of social justice.

ARTICLE 14

Foreign capital shall be authorised to operate within the framework of the State's economic policy.

ARTICLE 15

The People's Republic of Mozambique carries out a vigorous battle against illiteracy and obscurantism, and promotes the development of the national culture and personality. The State strives to make Mozambican culture known internationally and to ensure that the Mozambican people benefit from the revolutionary cultural gains of other peoples.

ARTICLE 16

The People's Republic of Mozambique organises a health system which shall benefit the entire Mozambican people.

ARTICLE 17

The emancipation of women is one of the State's essential tasks. In the People's Republic of Mozambique women and men have equal rights and duties, this equality extending to the political, economic, social and cultural spheres.

ARTICLE 18

The youth have always played a decisive role in the national liberation struggle, and they have a fundamental responsibility in the construction of a new society.

The State encourages and promotes youth's initiative in the reconstruction and defence of the country.

ARTICLE 19

The People's Republic of Mozambique is a secular State in which there is absolute separation between the State and religious institutions.

In the People's Republic of Mozambique the activities of religious institutions must conform with the State's laws.

ARTICLE 20

The People's Republic of Mozambique struggles against the exploitation of man by man, against imperialism and colonialism, for the unity of African peoples and States on the basis of respect for the liberty and dignity of

these peoples and States and their right to political, economic and social progress.

The People's Republic of Mozambique pursues a policy of strengthening relations of friendship and mutual help with young States engaged in the same battle to consolidate national independence and democracy, and to regain the use and control of their natural resources for the benefit of their peoples.

ARTICLE 21

The People's Republic of Mozambique gives its support and solidarity to the struggle of the peoples for national liberation.

ARTICLE 22

The People's Republic of Mozambique consolidates and develops solidarity with its natural allies, the socialist countries, solidarity forged in the struggle for national independence.

The People's Republic of Mozambique establishes and develops relations of friendship and cooperation with all democratic and progressive forces in the world.

ARTICLE 23

The People's Republic of Mozambique establishes relations of friendship and cooperation with all States on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, equality, non-interference in internal affairs and reciprocal benefit.

The People's Republic of Mozambique accepts, observes and applies the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity.

ARTICLE 24

The People's Republic of Mozambique defends the principles of the general and universal disarmament of all States.

The People's Republic of Mozambique defends the principle of turning the Indian Ocean into a non-nuclear zone of peace.

The People's Republic of Mozambique pursues a policy of peace, resorting to force only in the case of legitimate defence.

ARTICLE 25

The People's Republic of Mozambique

grants the right of asylum to foreigners persecuted because of their struggle for peace, democracy and national and social liberation.

PART II

Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

ARTICLE 26

All citizens of the People's Republic of Mozambique enjoy the same rights and are subject to the same duties, irrespective of colour, race, sex, ethnic origin, place of birth, religion, level of education, social position or occupation.

Any acts aimed at jeopardising social harmony, or creating divisions or privileged positions based on colour, race, sex, ethnic origin, place of birth, religion, level of education, social position or occupation, are punishable by law.

ARTICLE 27

In the People's Republic of Mozambique all citizens have the right and duty, within the framework of the Constitution, to take part in the process of creating and consolidating democracy at all levels of society and the State.

In fulfilling the objectives of the Constitution, all citizens enjoy freedom of opinion, assembly and association.

ARTICLE 28

All citizens of the People's Republic of Mozambique over 18 years of age are entitled to vote and be elected, with the exception of those legally deprived of that right.

ARTICLE 29

In the People's Republic of Mozambique women and men enjoy the same rights and are subject to the same duties. This principle shall guide all the legislative and executive work of the State.

The State protects marriage, the family, motherhood and childhood.

ARTICLE 30

Active participation in the defence of the country and the Revolution is the right and highest duty of every man and woman citizen of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

ARTICLE 31

In the People's Republic of Mozambique work and education are the right and duty of every citizen. Combating the situation of backwardness created by colonialism, the State promotes the necessary conditions for extending enjoyment of these rights to all citizens.

ARTICLE 32

All citizens have the right to assistance in the event of disablement and in old age. The State promotes the creation of bodies which guarantee the exercise of that right.

ARTICLE 33

Individual freedoms are guaranteed by the State for all citizens of the People's Republic of Mozambique. These freedoms include the inviolability of the home and the secrecy of correspondence and they cannot be limited except in cases specially provided for by the law.

In the People's Republic of Mozambique the State guarantees the freedom of citizens to practice or not to practice a religion.

ARTICLE 34

The State ensures special protection for the orphans and other dependants of FRELIMO militants who died while fulfilling missions, as well as for those maimed or disabled in the liberation struggle.

ARTICLE 35

In the People's Republic of Mozambique no one can be arrested or tried except under terms of the law. The State guarantees accused persons the right to legal defence.

ARTICLE 36

All citizens of the People's Republic of Mozambique have the duty to respect the Constitution and the law. The State prohibits any misuse of individual rights and freedoms prejudicial to the people's interests.

The State severely punishes all acts of treason, subversion, sabotage, and, in general, acts carried out against FRELIMO's objectives and against revolutionary people's order.

PART III

State Organs

CHAPTER 1

Principles

ARTICLE 37

The People's Assemblies are the supreme organs of State Power at each level of government.

In carrying out their functions, the People's Assemblies practise a unity of decision-making, implementation and control at each appropriate level.

A People's Assembly at a lower level is subordinate to a People's Assembly at a higher level.

ARTICLE 38

The executive organs are subordinate to the People's Assemblies of the appropriate level, and must account to them for their activities.

Lower level executive organs are subordinate to higher level ones and must carry out their directions.

ARTICLE 39

The organs of State power are guided by FRELIMO and follow the principles of the unity of democratic centralist power, double subordination, local initiative and ongoing contact with the people.

ARTICLE 40

The People's Assemblies are composed of delegates elected by the people. The delegates, as representatives of the people, must periodically account to them for their activities.

ARTICLE 41

The People's Assemblies may create such commissions as are necessary to carry out their functions, or they may make individual members responsible for specific tasks.

It is the duty of all State organs and institutions to help the People's Assemblies.

ARTICLE 42

The People's Republic of Mozambique is divided territorially into provinces, districts, cities and localities.

CHAPTER 2

Central state bodies

SECTION 1

People's Assembly

ARTICLE 43

The People's Assembly is the supreme organ of State power in the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The People's Assembly expresses the will of the Mozambican People, advances the development goals of the People's Republic of Mozambique as defined by FRELIMO, and determines the standards which guide economic and social life.

ARTICLE 44

The functions of the People's Assembly are as follows:

- (a) To legislate on basic matters related to internal and external policy;
- (b) To effect alterations to the Constitution;
- (c) To deliberate on the State Plan, the State Budget, and report on its implementation;
- (d) To determine the basis of taxation policy;
- (e) To ratify or denounce international treaties;
- (f) To approve the report of the activities of the Council of Ministers;
- (g) To ratify legislative acts of the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly;
- (h) To alter the territorial organisation at the level of province, district or city;
- (i) To annul decisions of People's Assemblies which are contrary to the Constitution or other legal decisions;
- (j) To grant amnesties, to pardon, and to commute sentences;
- (k) To sanction the suspension of constitutional guarantees when a state of siege or emergency is declared;
- (l) To determine when the President of the Republic may go abroad on State visits;
- (m) To create Commissions of the People's Assembly.

ARTICLE 45

Legislation may be initiated by the following:

- (a) The Central Committee of

FRELIMO, which determines the orientation and defines the principles of the legislation;

- (b) *The Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly;*
- (c) *The Council of Ministers;*
- (d) *The Commissions of the People's Assembly.*

ARTICLE 46

The composition of the People's Assembly is determined by the Electoral Law.

ARTICLE 47

The People's Assembly is convened and presided over by the Head of State.

The People's Assembly meets in ordinary sessions twice a year, and in extraordinary sessions when convened by the President of the Republic or when convocation is requested by the Central Committee of FRELIMO, by the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly, or by at least one-third of the members of the People's Assembly.

ARTICLE 48

The People's Assembly may deliberate only if the majority of its members are present.

Decisions of the People's Assembly are taken by an absolute majority vote of members present.

Alterations to the Constitution must be approved by more than two-thirds of the members of the People's Assembly.

ARTICLE 49

No member of the People's Assembly may be imprisoned except when caught in the act, nor may a member be tried, except with the consent of that body, or of its Permanent Commission.

SECTION 2

Permanent Commission of People's Assembly

ARTICLE 50

The Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly consists of deputies elected by the People's Assembly from among its members, on the proposal of the Central Committee of FRELIMO.

The Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly is convened and presided over by the Head of State.

ARTICLE 51

It is the duty of the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly to take over the functions of the People's Assembly in periods between the meetings of that organ.

The Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly assists the Commissions and the members of the People's Assembly in carrying out their tasks and promotes cooperation and exchange of experiences between the People's Assembly and similar institutions in other countries.

ARTICLE 52

The Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly is answerable to the People's Assembly.

SECTION 3

President of the Republic

ARTICLE 53

The President of the People's Republic of Mozambique is the President of FRELIMO.

The President of the People's Republic of Mozambique is the Head of State.

He is the symbol of national unity and represents the Nation at home and internationally.

ARTICLE 54

It is the function of the President of the Republic:

- (a) To ensure that the Constitution is respected and that State organs function properly;
- (b) To create Ministries and Commissions and to define their jurisdiction;
- (c) To direct the activities of the Council of Ministers and to preside over its meetings;
- (d) To appoint and dismiss
 - The Ministers and Vice-Ministers;
 - The Provincial Governors;
 - The Governor and Vice-Governor of the Bank of Mozambique;
 - The Director of the National Service of People's Security;
 - The President and Vice-President of the Supreme People's Tribunal, and the Procurator of the Republic;
 - The Secretaries of State;

- The Rectors of the Universities;
- *The Ambassadors and diplomatic envoys of the People's Republic of Mozambique;*

- (e) To promulgate the laws, legislative decrees and resolutions;
- (f) *To conclude international treaties;*
- (g) To declare a state of war, and to conclude treaties of peace, according to the decision of the Central Committee of FRELIMO;
- (h) To proclaim general or partial mobilisation;
- (i) To accredit ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of other countries.

ARTICLE 55

When he is sworn in, the President of the Republic swears the following oath:

I swear on my honour as a FRELIMO militant to devote all my energy to defending, promoting and consolidating the gains of the Revolution, to the welfare of the Mozambican people, to see to it that the Constitution is respected and ensure justice for all citizens.

ARTICLE 56

The President of the Republic decides who shall represent him in the event of his absence or incapacity, or in the performance of certain specific tasks.

ARTICLE 57

In the event of the death, resignation or permanent incapacity of the President of the Republic, his functions shall be immediately assumed by FRELIMO's Central Committee, which shall name a new President of the Republic in the shortest possible space of time.

SECTION 4

Council of Ministers

ARTICLE 58

The Council of Ministers is the governing body of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

In its work the Council of Ministers must comply with the laws of the People's Assembly and of its Permanent Commission and with decisions of the

President of the Republic.

ARTICLE 59

The Council of Ministers is presided over by the President of the Republic. *The composition of the Council of Ministers is fixed by law.*

ARTICLE 60

It is the function of the Council of Ministers:

- (a) To draw up the State Plan and State Budget and to implement them *after they have been approved by the People's Assembly;*
- (b) To draw up proposed legislation and decrees for the People's Assembly and the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly, as well as draft proposals on matters for Presidential decision;
- (c) *To direct the internal and external policies of the People's Republic of Mozambique;*
- (d) *To prepare the way for the celebration of international treaties and to celebrate, ratify, become a party to, and denounce international agreements;*
- (e) *To guarantee the protection and development of state and cooperative property;*
- (f) *To strengthen public order and social discipline and to guarantee the rights and freedoms of citizens;*
- (g) To direct and coordinate the functioning of the Ministries and of the other organs subordinate to the Council of Ministers;
- (h) *To ensure that the economy and the social sectors of the State are properly directed;*
- (i) *To analyse the experiences of local State bodies and to define the bases for their organisation and functioning;*
- (j) *To develop and consolidate legality.*

ARTICLE 61

The Council of Ministers is answerable to the People's Assembly for the implementation of the internal and external policy of the People's Republic of Mozambique, and is accountable to it for its activities.

The members of the Council of Ministers are personally responsible for the decisions and work of the Council of Ministers and for their implementation.

ARTICLE 62

The President of the Republic can create within the Council of Ministers a body selected from some of its members, with powers to take over the functions of the Council of Ministers in periods between its meetings.

CHAPTER 3

Local State Bodies

ARTICLE 63

In the People's Republic of Mozambique the People's Assemblies at the local level are an integral part of State power, and manifest the unity of decision, execution and control in carrying out their tasks at the level of the province, district, city and locality.

ARTICLE 64

The functions of the People's Assemblies are as follows:

- (a) *To promote social progress, the consolidation of State power, increased production and productivity, development of collective work and improvement of the material and cultural conditions of life in their respective areas;*
- (b) *To make decisions about matters fundamental to the development of their respective areas, achieving their objectives within the framework of legal norms.*

ARTICLE 65

Executive organs at the local level are the Provincial Governments, and the Executive Councils of the districts, cities and localities.

ARTICLE 66

The Provincial Government and the Executive Councils of the district, city and locality direct the implementation of State policy as well as the economic, cultural and social tasks in their respective areas, in accordance with the Constitution and with the deliberations of the People's Assembly, of the Council of Ministers, of the higher level organs of State power, and of the People's Assembly of the same level.

ARTICLE 67

The Provincial Governor is the representative of the President of the

Republic in the Province and is answerable for his activities to FRELIMO, to the President of the Republic and to the Council of Minister Ministers.

ARTICLE 68

The powers, organisation and composition of local State organs shall be determined by law.

CHAPTER 4

Judicial Organisation

ARTICLE 69

In the People's Republic of Mozambique the judicial function shall be performed by the Supreme People's Tribunal and other courts as determined by law, *subordinating themselves to the People's Assembly.*

ARTICLE 70

In carrying out their work the courts shall guarantee and strengthen legality, defend and safeguard the principles embodied in the Constitution and in other applicable norms, as well as protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens and of the various legally constituted bodies and entities.

ARTICLE 71

The courts shall suppress and combat offences against the law. The courts shall educate citizens to comply voluntarily and conscientiously with the laws, establishing a just and harmonious system of social intercourse.

ARTICLE 72

In the People's Republic of Mozambique the Supreme People's Tribunal is the highest judicial body, with jurisdiction throughout the nation.

The Supreme People's Tribunal shall ensure and promote the uniform application of the law by all courts in the interests of the people of Mozambique.

ARTICLE 73

The judges are independent in the discharge of their duties and must obey only the law.

ARTICLE 74

The Procurator's office is composed of a hierarchically organised system of legal

officers subordinate to the Procurator of the Republic.

ARTICLE 75

It is the specific duty of the legal officers of the Procurator's office to represent the State, protect legality and supervise the way in which laws and other legal norms are carried out.

PART IV

Symbols of the People's Republic of Mozambique

ARTICLE 76

The symbols of the People's Republic of Mozambique are the flag, the emblem and the national anthem.

ARTICLE 77

The National Flag has five colours, four of them separated by white bands, and placed diagonally, starting from the upper left-hand corner. The colours, in order from top to bottom, represent:

Green — the wealth of Mozambique's soil;

Red — the centuries-old resistance to colonialism, the armed struggle for national liberation and the Revolution;

Black — the African continent;

Yellow — the wealth of the subsoil.

The white expresses the justness of the Mozambican people's struggle and the peace that struggle is aimed at establishing.

In the upper left-hand corner there is an emblem consisting of a cog wheel (symbol of the working class and industrial production) which encircles a book (symbol of education), on which are superimposed a crossed gun and hoe, symbolising defence and vigilance, the peasantry and agricultural production.

On the right, inside the cog wheel, there is a red star, symbolising the Mozambican people's internationalist spirit.

ARTICLE 78

The emblem of the People's Republic of Mozambique has as its central features a book, a gun and a hoe over a map of Mozambique and representing respectively: education, defence and vigilance, and the peasantry and agricultural production.

The ocean is represented below the map.

In the centre there is a rising sun, the symbol of revolution and of the new life being built.

Bordering these there is a cog wheel, symbolising the working class and industry, the factor giving impetus to our economy.

Around the cog wheel there is, on the right, a maize plant and cob, and on the left a sugar cane, which symbolises agricultural wealth.

At the top, in the centre, a red star symbolises the internationalist spirit of the Mozambican Revolution.

In the lower part, there is a red band bearing the inscription 'People's Republic of Mozambique'.

PART V

Final and Transitional Provisions

ARTICLE 79

Former legislation which is contrary to the Constitution is automatically revoked. Former legislation which is not contrary to the Constitution shall be maintained in force until such time as it is altered or revoked.

ARTICLE 80

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique comes into force at 00 hours on 25 June 1975.

