



Decent r al iSATION:

Promoting citizenship, good governance and the fight against poverty

**Address by HE Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique
Communication to the Nation and to the World on the occasion of his
inauguration**

Maputo, the 14th January 2009

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1. Introduction

It is with great emotion that we address you all, dear fellow countrymen, at home and abroad and to our foreign dignitaries, on the occasion of this solemn act of our inauguration. Special greetings go to the Heads of State and Government who decided to make their participation in this ceremony a priority, in an unequivocal expression of friendship and esteem for the People of Mozambique and as a sign of the excellent relations prevailing between our Mozambique and their countries. Your presence, fellow Heads of State and Government, honours us a great deal, and is worthy of our greatest appreciation. Many thanks for accepting our invitation.

With this solemn act of inauguration, we have just affirmed our sworn commitment to, once again, lead the destiny of the heroic People of Mozambique in the coming five years. We want to avail ourselves of this opportunity to, once more, congratulate the marvellous People of Mozambique for their high level of urbane behaviour, political maturity and reiterated commitment to multiparty democracy and to the Rule of Law, displayed during the electoral campaign and on the voting day.

We are proud to belong to a People with these special attributes, a People with a sharp vision and profound wisdom. This is the People that inspires our political action, structure and materialise our vision of a prosperous Mozambique, always united, peaceful and with growing prestige among the concert of nations.

2. The message for the electoral campaign

The message we took to our electorate was of our availability to continue to lead our marvellous People in their fight against poverty. In making the fight against poverty our electoral banner, we walked an extra mile beyond the simple and obvious observation that poverty is a problem, a plight that scourges Mozambicans, men and women, in the city and in the rural areas, from Rovuma to Maputo and from the Indian Ocean to Zumbo.

In the interaction with our People we diagnosed the causes of this distressing and degrading evil and emphasised that we had only two options: to resign ourselves to our fate, assuming that poverty is invincible or to arm ourselves with self-esteem and fight to roll it back until it is eradicated. Above all, we articulated the assurance that a People with so many victories like ours, is best placed to continue to use its genius creatively and its skilled hands to overcome this scourge.

Not only the supporters of the winning party believed in our message, because the electoral results show that in our Mozambique, the will to fight poverty goes beyond party lines. Therefore, with this wealth of confidence and legitimacy, we want to bring to the attention of the Mozambican Nation that time has come to set aside political differences, which characterised the competition for votes, and to devote ourselves to the fight against poverty, with all our energies, this epopee of a People who knows that they can and are overcoming poverty.

We reaffirm that, ourselves, will be the President of all Mozambicans and our government, whose composition will be

announced shortly, will respect and ensure the respect the Rule of Law and Social Justice, based on political pluralism and freedom of expression, respect and guarantee of fundamental freedoms and rights of all citizens regardless of any circumstances, which may differentiate them, thus providing equal opportunities for all.

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3. 5 year term of office Review

The 5 year term of office ending with this inaugural ceremony was eventful in terms of achievements. The self-esteem of the Mozambican citizen, his or her pride for his or her history, culture and deeds was consolidated. Weaved with these virtues, the Mozambican self-esteem grew stronger which, in turn, triggered his or her innate, but dormant abilities to deliver.

National Unity was consolidated in the course of this 5 year term of office, and more fellow countrymen were encouraged to engage in political, social and economic activities anywhere in the country. With National Unity, a sense of Motherland grew, as well as the love for Mozambican symbols and values.

Across our beautiful Mozambique, there are other landmarks of our achievement of this term of office. We have more schools built with conventional materials, where most of them were built with precarious materials; We have now rehabilitated health posts, better staffed and equipped, were previously we had degraded infrastructures; We have more places with access to piped potable water all day, everyday, were previously this was a mirage; We have more places with access to computers, were previously civil servants depended on generators, which were only operational at

night. These civil servants no longer need to work overtime to have access to information and communication technologies, for now electricity is available 24 hours a day; In places previously deserted, others where only abandoned ruins or constructions with precarious materials could be seen, now imposing residences, offices, and other social and economic infrastructures, beautifying the already beautiful Mozambique, have been erected. We have more places, where there was little to be done and today, jobs are generated, in a cascading fashion, as a result of public and private investments and of the decentralisation of resources; We have more places, where travel is no longer a torment, a risk or uncertainty about arrival times because more roads, bridges and railways have been rehabilitated or built, and now guarantee safe and comfortable travel, with the traveller on line through mobile telephone.

The 7 million meticaís (the equivalent of US 300 000) have performed significant changes in the rural areas. In some areas, where there was famine, today, our always laborious People are crying out for markets to trade their surpluses. They cry out for financial institutions in which to deposit their savings or from which to obtain loans to expand their businesses. In some areas, bicycles and motorbikes are no longer novelties not even the workshops, where these means of transport are repaired. The novelty is now the shop where spare parts are sold.

Mozambique has marched at an accelerated pace. Poverty has been rolled back considerably.

4. Translating Electoral Commitments into programmes

We want to reaffirm that we will fulfil our electoral promises. We reiterate this commitment, galvanised by the sublime certainty that, behind us, we have millions of Mozambican arms and those of friends of Mozambique, all pulling in the same direction, forming one single unstoppable force, capable of producing great feats that match the greatness of this Land of Heroes. We also hope that those who will have the opportunity to join our restricted working team, the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, will bring the same determination. We want that, every day, each one of them feel challenged to honour the confidence that we shall place in them, making the implementation of our electoral manifesto, their first priority, and humility and good service to Mozambique and its People, their daily practice.

Elaborating on our commitments, we would like to reiterate that we shall continue to consolidate National unity among Mozambicans, from Rovuma to Maputo and from the Indian Ocean to Zumbo. For us, National Unity is the blood that runs through all arteries of our society, taking the oxygen of hope and of our indisputable willingness to overcome obstacles. National Unity is, above all, the blood that transports the necessary immunities so that, as a People, as a Nation, we are not weakened by these obstacles.

We have said this before and reaffirm it again here. The only alternative to Peace is Peace itself. With peace, and here we want to highlight the role played by the political parties, the media, faith based organizations and civil society organisations, we embrace each other and feel our brotherhood penetrating in the core of our Mozambican identity, in our value system. With peace we galvanise ourselves to develop our beloved Motherland.

National Unity and Peace are the foundations for the consolidation of multiparty democracy in Mozambique. In this context, we invite all parties and coalitions of parties in our political firmament and their leaderships and members, women and youths, all Mozambicans, to participate in this process of consolidation of multiparty democracy, a process that also release various creative initiatives for the success of our development programmes. Likewise, we invite the civil society organisations, including the media, to continue to contribute to the strengthening of our young and vibrant multiparty democracy.

Looking at our second commitment, we want to underline that the fight against poverty and the promotion of a culture of work, shall become a cross cutting issue, being placed at the epicentre of our government action. In the first place, our government will have the noble mission of promoting a diversity of conditions, which will enable Mozambicans to use their knowledge to transform our abundant resources and opportunities, which we shall continue to generate, into means to better their lives. We want each one of us to celebrate the small victories that we achieve every day, which allow us to realise that today is better than yesterday: because as a student one had better marks; because one has completed an academic research project; because one has improved his/her students' performance; because one assisted more citizens at his/her office or health centre; because one had better yields in his/her farm; because one has improved the hygiene of his/her market stall; because one has adopted new technologies; because one has improved his/her own housing conditions; Or because one has identified and explored new opportunities.

Still in this context, we shall intensify our actions in the fight against urban poverty promoting, as we do in rural areas, partnerships with the private sector, faith based organizations and other civil society organisations. We shall seek to encourage our fellow citizens to organise themselves in associations or companies, and engage in training, of different duration and specialisation, and encourage them to believe that improvement of their lives, hygiene and safety at their workplaces and homes is at their reach and depends, in the first place, upon themselves. That they should to invest in their self-esteem and in challenging themselves to do better and better. In this regard, we thank all the cybernauts that have sent us invaluable contributions about this and the other themes to our website (*armandoguebuza.blogspot.com*)

Secondly, we want the Mozambican citizen to awaken, once more, to the many opportunities for fighting against poverty, provided for in the social and economic projects and programmes that we are developing. We are talking about opportunities that result from and grow out from public and private investments, which result in rural electrification, water supply, telecommunications, expansion of educational network and institutions of higher learning, information and communication technologies, roads, bridges and other public works. The Green Revolution provides another set of opportunities in the value chain of agricultural production, agro-processing and commercialisation.

The 2010 is a special year for the *8th March Generation*. In the course of the past 33 years, this generation, with the support and leadership of the *25th September Generation* has written important pages of our History: The *8th March Generation* ensured the

continuity of social and economic activity at the dawn of our National Independence; it guaranteed the training of cadres, and defence of national sovereignty; and contributed to the return of Peace.

Still in the scope of the fight against poverty, we shall continue to pay attention to the solution of problems afflicting the demobilised soldiers. We are convinced that with their involvement and co-operation we shall overcome these problems.

Today the *Generation of Change* is emerging. This is the generation, whose historic mission is to fight and defeat poverty. In order for it to succeed in its mission, it should rely on the knowledge, sagacity and vision of the *25th September Generation* and the *8th March Generation*. As experience within the family and in society counsels us, no generation can succeed in its mission if it places at the centre of its agenda, the fight and vilification of previous Generations. All the achievements of the *25th September Generation* and *8th March Generation* were and will be for the youths and for the generations to come. An example is education, health, transport, housing and even employment in the public and private sectors, where by following a series of criteria it is the youths that form the majority of new admissions. The *Generation of Change*, which alongside women, shall be placed at the epicentre of our governance, is responsible for materialising our wishes of seeing the *Made in Mozambique* programme assuming a cross cutting character in our governance and society.

In the context of implementation of our third commitment, good governance and the culture of accountability, we shall consolidate and expand the Open and Inclusive Presidency experience. We shall

also continue to promote and expedite access to justice and increasingly bring it closer and closer to the citizen, and ensure that more players in our society, including socio-professional organisations, both in urban and rural areas, are challenged to do their best in the construction of this Pearl of the Indian Ocean.

We shall place a great emphasis on the process of decentralisation in the implementation of this commitment. In our opinion decentralisation is trusting and building capacity; trusting and building capacity is holding people to account; holding people to account is instilling the culture of accountability and transparency in the management of public assets and fund. At the same time, decentralisation is to cultivate the sense of citizenship, of belonging and of inclusion; it is to promote good governance and the involvement of more and more Mozambicans in the building of this beautiful Mozambique, their Mozambique, Mozambique of all and of each one of us.

In fulfilling our fourth commitment, we shall continue to develop actions that strengthen our sovereignty. The role of Defence and Security Forces as guarantors of national independence, preservation of sovereignty, territorial integrity and maintenance of law and order shall continue to be promoted and valued. We shall continue with our approach to the military service as one of the melting pots of patriotism of the youth. Military service shall be complemented by the civic service, which has the virtue of strengthening voluntarism among our youth and the love for our marvellous People.

We shall equally continue to participate in peace keeping missions and in those of public interest. We shall continue, within the same

framework, with our participation in collective security mechanisms at regional and international levels, as a way of reiterating our commitment to World peace and security.

Our fifth commitment is related to the pursuit of actions leading to the strengthening of international co-operation. In this context, we shall continue to be active players in SADC and the African Union, fighting for the triumph of Southern Africa's integration ideals towards continental integration.

We shall continue to engage ourselves in the strengthening and continuous affirmation of the CPLP in the context of international diplomacy.

To our bilateral partners, to the United Nations Family and to the different International organisations, to which we are members, among them, the Commonwealth, ACP, the Non Aligned Movement, the International Organization for the Francophonie and the Islamic Conference, as well as our partners such as the European Union and the financial institutions, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank, the European Development Bank and The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, reiterate our commitment to continue to work with you and to value your engagement and support to our development. In this partnership we recorded successes in the past. In this partnership we shall record successes in the future.

6. Challenges

We are fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead. The road is long and tortuous. The following obstacles to our development red tape, the spirit of apathy and drift, , corruption crime as well as different pandemic diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and Malaria, shall

continue to deserve our best attention, with particular incidence through continuing training of cadres, public sector reforms and support to the continuing improvement of the performance in the sectors that form part of system of the administration of justice. Climate change and the financial crisis are other challenges and, we like in the 5 year term of office that ends today, we should continue to transform them in opportunities for development. Therefore, we shall stimulate innovation, proactivity, entrepreneurship, excellence, rigour and quality, challenging one another to do better and better. We shall ensure that talent is cherished, rewarded, exalted and emulated. In this crusade, we shall intensify actions conducive to discourage the practice of *outstretched hand*, a degrading attitude of wishing to depend on others even when we can, ourselves, think, design and produce, and only seek from others the complement or enrichment to our actions.

7. Reiterating thanks

To all who provided their invaluable contribution to the success of this ceremony we extend our expression of acknowledgement and gratitude. Many thanks People of Mozambique for renewing your confidence in such an expressive manner.

Thanks for your kind attention.