

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY FILIPE JACINTO NYUSI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGREEMENT ON THE CESSATION OF MILITARY HOSTILITIES**

**Gorongosa District, 1 August 2019**

Mr Ossufo Momade, President of Renamo;

Members of the Defense and Security Council;

Mr. Governor of Sofala Province

Mr. Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General and Chairman of the Contact Group;

Dear Members of the Accredited Diplomatic Corps in our country;

Members of the Contact Group;

International Experts;

Dear Representatives of the Political Parties represented in the Parliament;

Dear Guests;

Dear people of Gorongosa;

Dear Workers of this Park;

Mozambicans;

Dear Compatriots!

Before continuing his speech, the Head of State made the following comment:

We are experiencing a moment of hope, this moment that draws a promising future, and I will naturally make a reconciliation speech. Everything belongs to the past! We are turning over a new page and this page is upheld and taken up with what we say and what we do!

After this brief introduction, the Head of State went on with his speech:

I begin by greeting and thanking all those who honour us with their presence at this act, which symbolizes a firm commitment by Mozambicans to finally achieve definitive peace.

It is important to remember that when we undertook the leadership of Mozambique's destiny on 15 January 2015, we established that achieving effective and lasting peace would be one of the priorities of our governance cycle.

In this vein, we have chosen dialogue as the privileged means to achieve this goal, and therefore, in the face of mounting tensions, after the elections of October 15, 2014, and before completing one month in office, we held two meetings with the late President of Renamo, Brother Afonso Dhlakama.

Faced with the persistence of disputes, we have seen the intensification of military violence and localized political hostilities, but we persisted in seeking to resolve our differences through dialogue because it

was and continues to be our conviction that differences between brothers are not resolved by violence, but by talking and building mutual trust.

When we realized that the format of dialogue through facilitators chosen by the parties was somehow distancing us from the desired outcomes and speed, and therefore from the cessation of violence, we opted for direct contact and dialogue with President Dhlakama.

This exercise resulted first in a truce for one week, then one month, later three months, and finally indefinitely. The successive temporary truces in military hostilities, allowed time and contributed to the increase in trust between us, a crucial factor for the consensus reached on decentralization and military affairs.

While he was alive, we took important decisions with the late President Dhlakama on Decentralisation, which allowed us to submit to Parliament the document that resulted in the one-off revision of the Constitution of the Republic. This was another victory for the Mozambicans.

It was this same spirit that led us to the signing of the Memorandum, on August 6, 2018, with the current President of Renamo, my brother, Mr. Ossufo Momade, which enables the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of the armed elements of Renamo, our brothers.

The Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration process has made remarkable progress, because of the shared will of Mozambicans to live in peace and harmony, overcoming party differences and putting the interests of all Mozambicans above anything else.

We are pleased to welcome the joint efforts implemented by the Contact Group, Government and Renamo teams, assisted by International Experts, which meant that last Monday, 29 July 2019, another act included in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Military Affairs took place, namely the launch of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of the Renamo armed men, our brothers.

At the same time, we received the list of Renamo officers who are going to join the Police of the Republic of Mozambique, and they are already being duly processed.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We are aware that the armed conflict has caused the death of many of our brothers and the destruction of private and public property. As Mozambicans, we keep bitter memories of that dark period in our history, as a lesson to avoid its recurrence.

Military violence has slowed Mozambique's development.

Imbued with the spirit of tolerance and the profound interest in reconciling Mozambicans, I submitted the draft Amnesty Law to Parliament and, to our satisfaction, the Parliament, charged with patriotism, approved it by consensus and with acclamation.

But today, August 1, 2019, will be indelibly marked in the history of the Mozambican people as the day when brothers met in deeds and feelings, when brothers said it was enough to the war between brothers and embraced each other to develop Mozambique.

After several years of dialogue aimed at achieving effective and lasting peace, we are here in Gorongosa to tell all Mozambicans and the whole world:

- That we have just taken another step that shows that the march towards effective peace is, indeed, irreversible.
- That uncertainty has given way to hope! And that Mozambique's future is promising.
- That henceforth, hostilities between members of the same family go down in history.

It is we, Mozambicans, who have chosen to definitively bury armed confrontation and violence, because we know how harmful the horrors of war are for present and future generations.

This is an act carried out, led and monitored by Mozambicans with international assistance, through diplomacy accredited in Mozambique.

The act that we have just carried out, dear compatriots, of signing the Agreement on the Definitive Cessation of Military Hostilities, precisely here in Gorongosa, which was the epicentre of this armed confrontation between the government and Renamo, is an unequivocal demonstration of our commitment to effective and lasting peace.

Gorongosa, in particular the National Park, will forever cease to be associated with the spectre of violence between brothers and against the fauna and flora that abound there.

From today, a new era begins in the history of our country, in which no Mozambican or group of Mozambicans should use armed violence as a means of resolving political differences or differences of opinion.

In due course, Gorongosa Park will take on the universal posture it now deserves, not only because it is the sanctuary of national biodiversity.

Today, we are clearly demonstrating the power of dialogue and the importance of trust in resolving political conflicts.

Today is the beginning of the true reconciliation process, a necessary condition for consolidating effective peace, greater democratization, and economic and social development.

With this agreement, we want Mozambique to join other nations in the region and in the world, where the rule of law is an established practice in conflict resolution.

From now on, we must all strengthen forgiveness and face the future with greater optimism, tolerance, and respect for differences.

We want, from this Gorongosa Mountain, to thank all the Mozambican people for their patience and for giving us the inspiration and encouragement to take the step that the world is witnessing, urging you to be the guardian of this peace that we have conquered with sacrifice.

We want to thank all the good men and women who worked towards this goal. I would like to make a special mention of the late leader of Renamo, who was able to understand our sense of honesty, frankness, humility, and unceasing desire to bring peace to the Mozambicans, and placed his trust in us, which was the reason for the success that began today.

The credit also goes to Renamo President, Ossufo Momade, who was able to continue the process up to this stage, despite internal adversities.

Let us focus our energies on building the country of progress and well-being, peace, social justice, and solidarity that we deserve.

To the international community, we ask that you continue to stand with us in making this dream of a country of peace and progress come true. With your support, we want to mobilize sufficient resources to implement, with due speed and effectiveness, the reintegration process of the brothers who were in the Renamo forces.

At the appropriate time, we will express the bow we offer to each of our friends and international partners involved in this long but honourable and noble process.

I will end by expressing our deep gratitude to all those who, with their knowledge and selfless dedication, made this ceremony possible, in particular the Facilitators of the Dialogue, the Contact Group, the Government and Renamo Teams, as well as the International Component, which supports this will of the Mozambicans.

Thank you very much for your attention!