

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY OSSUFO MOMADE, PRESIDENT OF RENAMO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGREEMENT ON THE CESSATION OF MILITARY HOSTILITIES

Gorongosa District, 1 August 2019

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Mozambique

Your Excellency the Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chairman of the Contact Group;

Your Excellencies Members of the Contact Group;

Honourable Members of the Military Affairs Commission;

Honourable Members of the Joint Technical Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration;
Honourable Members of the Joint Technical Group on Monitoring and Verification;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Compatriots!

After a long and difficult negotiation process that started in May 2016, we have just signed the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities, originated by the proclamation and validation of non-transparent, not fair, and not credible election results.

On the other hand, these military hostilities were the consequence of political intolerance, which became more pronounced from September 2015. We have lost fellow citizens and consented to sacrifices on both sides, but we have managed to identify what unites us as Mozambicans: peace and national reconciliation.

Therefore, moved by a genuine will, we have always believed that these high values for a healthy coexistence and the promotion of development will only be attainable at the dialogue table.

This is how the late President Afonso Macacho Marceta Dhlakama, without hesitation, set out for negotiations. Therefore, in this solemn act, we want to express, first, our eternal gratitude to this political icon, the man who always put the people and Mozambique first. He gave up his family, his wealth, his very life, to safeguard the noblest interests of our country. To him, and to the combatants who fell in this conflict, we bow and present our homage, for having left us the legacy of heroism and brotherhood.

We thank the Mozambicans, our source of inspiration and the reason for our struggle, for having been able to help the parties find solutions to the conflict.

To brother Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic, goes our feelings of appreciation for having succeeded in breaking the forces that have always opposed dialogue as a way to resolve our differences. And we hope you will be the guardian of this golden page we are opening today.

To the international community, who patiently mediated this political-military conflict, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, because you have shown that when human life is in danger, there are no borders in the world.

Mozambicans,

Compatriots,

August 1, 2019, is recorded in the Annals of Our History, as an unforgettable date, the day of the reunion of the Mozambican family. It is a historic date, because after long years of conflict, we, as brothers and sisters, have committed ourselves to bringing peace, a greater good that everyone longs for.

With this Signing of the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities, we want to assure our people and the world, that we have buried the rationale of violence as a way to resolve our differences.

From this new page onwards, we believe that peace is here to stay, and multi-party coexistence will be the appanage of political parties.

We believe that with this agreement, Mozambique can be mentioned across borders for good reasons, if we are determined to build a democratic rule of law where leaders are genuinely elected.

It is our conviction that, based on this agreement, we are all committed to do everything possible so that from now on the elections are fair, free, and transparent.

As we mentioned last July 29th, we hope that the blood spilled was not in vain.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Excellencies,

This long walk towards peace has been made by men and women who will return to their family and social life. There is no price that can be paid to these men and women, who sacrificed their youth, there because the contribution they made is priceless.

They helped to fortify our democracy by securing the principle of the election of provincial governors. They embodied in themselves the desire to see Mozambique thrive.

Therefore, we reiterate our promises to support the process of humanized social reintegration, and we wish all combatants a good return to their areas of origin.

Mozambicans,

Compatriots,

Excellencies,

The very recent past has taught us that the absence of good faith weakens commitments. It is in this sense that, here and now, we urge the parties to scrupulously comply with the principles assumed in this agreement, because only in this way will we guarantee stability and social harmony.

Among the commitments made by the Government, we can highlight:

- Refraining from taking threatening positions or besieging Renamo bases known to the Joint Technical Group for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration while the process of their dismantlement under the Memorandum of Understanding on Military Affairs is underway;
- Refrainong from hostile acts or kidnappings against the civilian population and their property.

For our part, we undertake to respect and comply with all the provisions of this agreement, in spirit and letter, without reservation.

Thus, with the signing of this Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities, we want to bury the culture of violence and terror, the lack of acceptance of the other, the denial of freedoms and fundamental rights of Mozambicans, the reason for our struggle.

We want a better, developed Mozambique, where natural resources are distributed equitably and are not a means of social segregation.

With the end of hostilities, we look forward to guarantees of free movement and clean political disputes, for the sake of democracy and fraternal coexistence.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Excellencies,

This Agreement on Cessation of Military Hostilities was preceded by the handing over of the names of the generals to the Government, who are to be integrated into the Armed Defence Forces of Mozambique and the Police of the Republic of Mozambique.

This act is intended to build mutual trust, which we hope will not be short-lived. We also hope that, from now on, the Police of the Republic of Mozambique will be republican and defend all Mozambicans.

It is our wish to see our police acting in strict compliance with the Constitution and the law, in their capacity as guarantors of public order and security, and not as enforcers of hidden agendas. In this regard, we urge the Police of the Republic of Mozambique to behave in an impartial, professional, and republican manner during the upcoming election campaign and vote. In this new era, elections in Mozambique should be a time for celebration.

We also urge the State Intelligence and Security Service, SISE, not to promote witch-hunts, persecution, and torture of citizens, in particular members of political parties, in order to safeguard the hard-won peace and national reconciliation.

Our Defence and Security Forces must fight to defend our sovereignty, the people, and the noblest interests of our homeland.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Excellencies,

When we took over the leadership of the Party on 5 May 2018, we committed ourselves to fulfilling in spirit and letter the understandings now reached by the late President Afonso Dhlakama. That's what we did, and today we re-establish peace in Mozambique, with the signing of the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities.

In this final moment of separation from the comrades in the trenches, we would like to express our thanks and hope that we remain united, as we have always been, because united we will never be defeated.

Thank you very much! Victory is certain!

Thank you!