

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY OSSUFO MOMADE, PRESIDENT OF THE RENAMO PARTY, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE MAPUTO ACCORD FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION**

Maputo City, August 6, 2019

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Mozambique

Your Excellency the Chairman of the African Union Commission and President of the Republic of Rwanda,

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia,

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia,

Your Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe,

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Madagascar,

Your Excellencies the Former Presidents of the Republic of Mozambique,

Your Excellency the Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Your Excellency the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique,

Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court,

Honourable Chief Judge of the Administrative Court,

Honourable Judges of the Constitutional Council,

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

Your Excellencies, Members of the Assembly of the Republic

Your Excellencies, Members of the Government of Mozambique,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps Accredited in Mozambique,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Contact Group,

Honourable Members of the Military Affairs Commission;

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;

Madam Governor of Maputo City

Mr. Mayor of Maputo City

Dear Members and Executives of Political Parties

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Having complied with the protocol,

Excellencies!

Today, August 6, 2019, is a memorable day for all Mozambicans, whether they are in the North or the South, in the Zumbu or the Indian Ocean, or in the diaspora.

Before the world, we express the unequivocal sign of our determination to build an environment of harmony and social concord, as a contribution to the pacification of our homeland and the planet earth.

The 6th of August 2019 joins historically the 4th of October 1992, the Signing of the General Peace Accords in Rome, and the 5th of September 2014, the Signing of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Maputo.

These solemn acts represent our conviction that in moments of disagreements among Mozambicans, we can find the platform for resolving our differences in dialogue.

In this solemn ceremony, first, we want to offer the deserved acknowledgement to our hero, Afonso Macacho Marceta Dhlakama, and to all the combatants who have left us when we least expected it, and unfortunately, are not living this moment as a singular moment.

On this occasion, we would like to greet everyone here today, in this solemn act, who, in an honourable way, came to witness this new page in our history.

On this occasion of the ceasefire, we particularly recognize and thank our General Staff, in the person of General Timothy Maquinze, the commanders and soldiers, who from the first hour accepted Renamo's call.

To the Mozambicans in general, we express our gratitude for having been able to advise the belligerents and believing in us. To all the brothers and sisters who have identified with our cause, we extend our deepest gratitude.

To my brother, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, I extend my fraternal embrace, for having been able to ward off negative influences during the negotiation process, thus becoming a dialoguing partner, which is why we have just opened a new page in our country.

Our sincere thanks go to the International Community, represented by the Contact Group, chaired by the Swiss Ambassador, for having helped us cross the desert and achieve this common good, peace, which the parties are committed to making effective.

To the international mediators, and the Joint Negotiations Commission, consisting of the Renamo and government delegations, which in May 2016 laid the foundations for the start of dialogue, our sincere congratulations.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Excellencies,

With this general ceasefire agreement, we seal the commitment to maintain peace and national reconciliation. Therefore, we are all called upon to take action to protect these values, which are so important for maintaining unity among Mozambicans.

The ceasefire should signify the beginning of a new era, which should be characterized by the acceptance of different thinking and peaceful political cohabitation. Governmental alternation, through free, fair, and transparent elections, should be the rule rather than the exception.

From now on, our vision must be to strengthen what unites us and not what divides us as a people, because in this way we can, in the short term, achieve development and eradicate the poverty that is suffocating our populations.

The ceasefire that now begins throughout the national territory, brings new hope and confidence to our society, provided that good faith continues to reign between the parties.

The ceasefire of 6 August 2019, must mean the elimination of barriers to the exercise of Mozambican citizenship, thus allowing civil society to undertake its role in the fortification of democracy and the democratic rule of law, as well as being the torch for transparency and respect for the common good, this not being a reason for persecution or other types of reprisal.

Since 1992, the democratic rule of law has come to stay in Mozambique, hence the commitment to ensure the de-partisanship of the state and the strengthening of institutions must be permanent, so that we can keep Mozambique united and indivisible.

It is our conviction that with the cease-fire, Mozambicans will be able to enjoy the beauty and richness of the country that God has given us, and will be disciples of love and brotherhood, provided that we as leaders are able to set an example of plural coexistence through concrete actions.

Mozambicans,

Compatriots,

The ceasefire comes on the eve of Pope Francis' coming to our homeland soil. We have no doubt that divine providence wanted this historic moment to be blessed by God. It is in this sense that we believe that the coming of the Holy Father to Mozambique, besides being an intense moment of prayer for Christians, will be a privileged occasion for the purification of our hearts.

Regarding this visit of the Supreme Pontiff, we wish to express our joy, affection, and good wishes to this wonderful country.

Mr. President of the Republic,

Members of the Contact Group;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Excellencies,

This General Peace Accord is the culmination of the commitments made last August 1, the day we signed the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities. Both Renamo and the Government pledge to scrupulously comply with it in order to definitively guarantee peace, national reconciliation and the democratic rule of law.

To conclude, we reiterate our pleas to not repeat the same mistakes, and to create a favourable environment for the holding of free, fair, and transparent elections. May the blood spilled not have been in vain and may the spirit of good faith always prevail!

Thank you very much!