



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

MINISTRY FOR THE COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

International Association for Impact Assessment

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM

RESETTLEMENT & LIVELIHOODS

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21st October 2014

Kruger Park – Republic of South Africa

Her Excellency, Minister of Environment of the Republic of South Africa

Respected Representatives of Several Organizations

Distinguished scholars and guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocols observed

1. On behalf of my country Mozambique, and myself, allow me to salute and welcome you all to the Resettlement and Livelihoods Symposium.
2. For me personally, it's a great **honour** and big **challenge** to stand before you and speak a few words that I expect that it will bust your motivation and spurt your minds to dig deeper and deeper to capture the broadest and clearest perspective and understanding of the relationship between resettlement and livelihoods.
3. It's an **honour** as there are rare opportunities for politicians like myself to sit and interact with hundreds of people from different backgrounds and perspectives, but driven and sharing the same aim: **the good balance between economic growth and community's development.**
4. You will agree with me that the task I have on my hands is also a **challenge** because as a politician who comes from one of the current hotspots of resettlements induced by economic development, many of you: decision makers, consultants, writers, journalists, scholars, students, look at me as the possible source of answers to many questions on how Mozambique is dealing or will deal with resettlements without jeopardizing communities livelihoods.
5. So in the next few minutes, let me take you to a quick but short trip, not to anticipate the answers to your questions, but to introduce you to the **context, lessons and challenges** that anyone of us must consider when embarking in the discussion of the **possible best options** that countries should adopt to promote sound and sustainable resettlements in areas subject to **economic development pressures.**

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS AND GUESTS

6. For those of you who come from Geography or Environmental Sciences, will agree with me that the relationship between **Humans and natural resources**, for geographers, and **Humans-Natural resources-and Environment**, for environmentalists are two topics that encompass passionate, endless and disputable debates, for instance, when the question is how we can create sustainable societies who live with and for the nature, and not merely from the depletion of the nature.
7. I strongly believe that all of you will agree with me if I were to suggest that beyond **theoretical and operational concepts**, we all should clearly understand the relationship between **humans-place-natural resources**, particularly in the African context, as the basis to clearly understand **why human settlements in Africa are located where we see them today**, be these urban or rural settlements.
8. Said that, allow me to strongly encourage all participants here, and particularly, the **scholars and research communities** to critically consider **the role of State before and after independences in shaping the existing settlements in Africa**, as the departing point to help assessing the real and potential opportunities and challenges that national governments in Africa have at hands to build **sustainable communities** in areas subject to displacements and resettlements.

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN

9. As you all may be aware, it is not an easy task to talk about resettlement as there are no models and best practices that better respond and fit into all contexts, regardless the region.
10. In this regard, allow me to state that learning from past experiences at national level, and using the best practices available elsewhere but with the necessary adjustments to anticipate the local demands and contexts, seems to be the best choice as since our modern times, particularly **i)** since the European penetration in Africa, **firstly**, and **ii)** the colonial ruling, **secondly**, and **later iii)** in the post-colonial period, all African communities

had been subject to several resettlement movements, and various models and approaches were employed.

11. But before I dig deep in my country's experience, I would like to emphasise **two issues**:

- **One:** that **resettlements are not an issue of today and are not exclusive to our current Governments**. Resettlements are an inheritance of the past and are the consequence of the way we place ourselves in relation with use of natural resources not only but also as means to access to livelihoods
- **Two:** That since we exist as societies, **the motivations, the outcomes and the role of State** in the displacements and resettlements conducted in our countries **has varied over time**.

12. In Mozambique, for instance, resettlements started with the arrival of our colonial rulers between the **15th century** until **mid-1960's**, and recent displacements and relocations happened in consecutive intervals since 1975 to nowadays, in response to several factors and circumstances.

13. Therefore, looking over the past **5 centuries**, I would state that Mozambique has faced **five types** and moments of displacements and resettlements processes:

- **Type 1: Colonial penetration induced displacements (since 1500 to 1885):** where occupation was induced by European settlers forced native populations to move inland from the coast seeking refuge in forests, highlands. This is the case of all Mozambican coastal provinces.
- **Type 2: Colonial occupation induced displacements (1885-1960):** where native populations were expelled from their lands by European settlers to allow the establishment of colonial agro-processing and mining companies. **No compensation was paid to native populations.**

These displacements happened in all provinces, but with **high intensity in all the Central and Northern provinces** where the agro-processing companies were established.

- **Type 3: Villagization induced displacements (1960-1980):** sparse settlements are gathered in villages
 - **Firstly: Villages created in Cabo Delgado and Niassa Provinces** by the colonial authorities in the mid-1960 as a defence strategy to contain the FRELIMO guerrillas fighting for independence
 - **Latterly: Communal villages** created in all provinces by Government between 1975-1980 as part of spatial planning strategy to improve provision of basic services to rural populations
- **Type 4. Natural disasters induced resettlements (1978-2014):** since independence (1975), new settlements have been created by Government in response to **flooding** in Zambezi, Limpopo, Incomati, Save and Buzi River basins in rural areas, and **flash flooding** and **erosion** in urban areas. **No compensation is required**
- **Type 5: Economic development induced resettlement (1992-2014):** varying from localized displacement of a **limited number of families** to **entire communities** to allow the implementation of socio-economic development projects. **Compensations are paid either by Government or by the developers.**

Lessons learned from past and recent experiences

14. From our experience, we have learned that resettlement where only successfully when displacement **was voluntary** or when **local communities were granted access to their livelihoods** in the new location, particularly fertile lands.

15. **Past examples** are the **Manjangué Community** on the Limpopo River, in Chókwe district, and **3 de Fevereiro Community**, in the Incomati River, which were founded after the big floods of 1978. Nowadays both communities have evolved to **small towns** and have been elevated to Administrative Posts with all basic services in place.

16. **Recent example** is the successful resettlement of **25.000 families** in the **Zambezi and Save rivers** in response to the 2007 and 2008 floods. Organized and sustainable neighbourhoods and towns equipped with basic services have been established and are flourishing.

17. **The involvement of the communities and their leaders**, to choose the new resettlement area coupled with the willingness and commitment of the Government to secure land in the former settlement or provide

alternative land, and basic services in the new resettlements areas was the key of the success.

The challenges ahead

Madam Chair,

18. The resettlements induced by economic development projects are not new for my country and we have been managing them wisely and well.
19. However, as now the development is taking place in the context of exploitation of natural resources, and specially by multi-national companies, new challenges emerge, namely:
 - i. **The magnitude of displacements:** moving from a few number of families to entire communities
 - ii. **Management of communities expectation:** sharing the benefits of exploitation of natural resources by private sector
 - iii. **The type of players involved:** moving from **public interest (State)** intervention to **private sector business**
 - iv. **The implementation mechanism:** limited responsibility for Government (provision of new land) - more responsibility for private sector to compensate communities for their property and provision of alternative livelihoods in the new resettlement site.
20. To anticipate and respond to these challenges, we have introduced changes in our legislation, particularly, on mining, to ensure local communities benefit and share the wealth with the developers, and resettlement to ensure that developers are responsible for sustainable development of the displaced communities in their new residential sites.
21. For instance, just for examples, **in 2012**, we reviewed the **Mining law**, where we introduced a provision which states that **2.75%** of the revenues of each big mining project should be transferred to local communities leaving nearby the project site.
22. Also in 2012, by a Decree of the Council of Ministers, we passed a **new Regulation** setting the principles that should govern the resettlement induced by economic activities.
23. This new decree emphasizes the mandatory consultation of local communities and places increased responsibility on **local and central governments** in ensuring that all consensuses reached between local

communities and the developers are fully met, and all rights of the affected communities are preserved.

24. Looking at the **substance, consistency** and **comprehensiveness** of the steps given by my Government, I have no doubt that what remain ahead of us is **our collective challenge** (Government, private sector, civil society, academia, etc) to work together for a successful implementation of the legal instruments that I mentioned.
25. Therefore, on behalf of my Government, I take this opportunity to encourage all stakeholders to continue **working together and constructively** to advocate for, to support and build the capacity of the local communities to understand and stand for their rights in accordance with the existing legislation.
26. As Government we remain open and fully committed to work together with and assist all stakeholders who want to contribute to sustainable development of our communities by helping them seize each opportunity that may arise from the exploitation of local natural resources.
27. **Before to conclude, let me declare open the International Symposium of Resettlement & Livelihoods.**

Thank you for your attention