
FRELIMO's vision for Mozambique's Future

Speaker: Filipe Nyusi

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of a meeting and question and answers session held at Chatham House on 1 August 2014 on Frelimo's vision of Mozambique's future, and how this will be realized.

The speaker discussed Frelimo's commitment to democracy, rule of law and peace, and its willingness to continue dialogue with Renamo. He described the need for effective political and economic governance to underscore Mozambique's rapid economic growth, and indicated the negative consequences of breaches of peace. The speaker described Frelimo's policies for ensuring the realisation of its goals, including the engagement of civil society and the private sector, decentralization and growth of the media.

Mozambique's economic growth must also be understood within the regional and international context, and the speaker highlighted the need for continued regional integration, as well as the country's positive relationship with the United Kingdom. Mozambique is interested in international investment and has various frameworks in place to govern investment and the government's development plans.

The meeting was held on the record. The following summary is intended to serve as an *aide-mémoire* for those who took part and to provide a general summary of discussions for those who did not.

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Filipe Nyusi

The speaker began by explaining that as Frelimo's presidential candidate, his vision for Mozambique could not be disaggregated from that of his party's. He detailed how Frelimo's vision for Mozambique involved the constant strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, and the protection of citizen's fundamental rights. The party values freedom and prosperity for all Mozambicans, and it aims for peace, unity and equality within Mozambique, as well as the development of good regional relations. He described how Mozambique was one of Africa's fastest growing economies, and one of the top three foreign direct investment destinations in Africa. He indicated that a commitment to sustainable peace and the maintenance of good political, economic and corporate governance were necessary for ensuring continued positive rates of economic growth. He described how recent unrest in Mozambique demonstrated that breaches of the peace had dire negative consequences. He stressed that political parties and civil society should commit to peace through both rhetoric and action, and he noted that Frelimo had opted to engage in dialogue to help end violence and increase tolerance between the parties.

Filipe Nyusi set out how Frelimo's vision would be realized. The party would continue to develop democratic institutions and a culture of peace and democracy. He explained how this was essential for ensuring the legitimacy of political processes and for preventing the use of violence to achieve political ends. Frelimo promotes multiparty democracy and the speaker highlighted how the party has encouraged the active participation of civil society in establishing policies for inclusive growth and the eradication of poverty. He noted that Frelimo would also engage the private sector in creating a competitive business environment in Mozambique, ensuring that the government, trade unions and employees all participate in continued dialogue about workers' well-being. Frelimo will additionally ensure the continued implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism in Mozambique to gain insight on how the government can better deliver. He emphasized the need for the democratic process to have an impact at the community level, and stated that local-level decision-making would increase. Frelimo will ensure that the parliament remains the primary institution through which elected representatives carry out citizens' aspirations. He further stated that the party was committed to freedom of expression and the growth of

the media, and he indicated that these policies have helped to generate Mozambique's high levels of economic growth.

The speaker explained that Mozambique's development should be viewed as part of southern Africa's integrated growth. Therefore Frelimo would continue to actively engage the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Furthermore, he described how the United Kingdom was a strategic partner in Mozambique's development, as a fellow member of the Commonwealth and through the establishment of a High Level Prosperity Partnership between the two countries. This initiative has enhanced the Mozambican-UK relationship by increasing Mozambique's economic growth and institutional capacity while also generating business opportunities for the United Kingdom in sectors such as energy, agriculture, banking, tourism and infrastructure. The speaker highlighted how Frelimo wished to see increased UK business activity in Mozambique, and he clarified that there was no contradiction for businesses that seek to maximize shareholders' gains and also contribute to the country's development.

Summary of questions and answers

Questions

Could the speaker elaborate on the contribution that multinational oil companies could make to Mozambique's development?

How does the speaker prioritize the competing needs for infrastructure development in Mozambique?

Filipe Nuysi

The speaker clarified that the government had an open door policy to all international investment, which currently allows international corporations to contribute to Mozambique's development. The country has an investment promotion centre that sets all frameworks and policies for international investors and covers the different sectors of Mozambique's economy. The speaker explained how there is still a need for greater development in the country, including industrialization and the creation of further infrastructure. He stated that Frelimo wanted to focus Mozambique's cooperation with the United Kingdom on such economic development.

He noted that laws governing infrastructure development projects had been passed and he explained that the government held public tenders to allow all interested parties to participate in a transparent process. He explained that the Mozambican government has in place an infrastructure development master plan that contains information on government infrastructure goals. He said that investors could refer to this document to decide which areas of infrastructure development to invest in. The speaker indicated that there are currently a number of opportunities for investors, and he invited further involvement, explaining that Mozambique was open, competitive and eager for investments.

Questions

Mauritius is currently designing a project with Mozambique to allow the facilitation of the movement of professionals around the region, and the two countries intend to sign an agreement for 300 Mauritian doctors to work in Mozambique. What are the speaker's thoughts on the importance of capacity-building and the development of human resources?

What is the speaker's assessment of the future of Mozambique's relationship with the G-19 donors, given that aid will decline over time and reported tensions between Mozambique's government and G-19?

Could the speaker assess which areas of collaboration between Mozambique and the G-19 donors have been successful, and identify areas that require improvement?

Filipe Nyusi

The speaker described how it was necessary to harmonize Mozambique's rapid economic growth and infrastructural development with other areas, including human resources. He detailed how Mozambique's levels of tertiary education remained insufficient, and argued that the country still lacked adequate human resources. The speaker went on to explain that while the recruitment of local Mozambican staff was favored, expatriates may be employed in areas where Mozambique lacks the necessary human resource capacity. He said that the healthcare sector was one example, as Mozambique lacks medical doctors but has put in place a regulatory framework to govern their work. The speaker stated that the existence of this legislation was integral for allowing the Ministry of Health to recruit doctors from Mauritius, through clarifying aspects such as the country's capacity for paying salaries and providing benefits. He emphasized that skills-training for Mozambicans was a top priority, and explained that the Mauritian doctors would be tasked with transferring their expertise.

The speaker acknowledged that Mozambique had taken issue with G-19, due to differing interpretations of the country's budget between the two, but he indicated that the government had engaged in dialogue and clarified these areas. He stated that he would develop a strategy for increased economic self-reliance and the development of a sustainable economy once in office, instead of relying on outside of aid. G-19 could provide the support and training necessary for Mozambique's economic empowerment. The speaker stated that, if elected, he would introduce a policy to improve transparency, clarity and accountability over the use of Mozambique's resources. Accounting would be conducted publicly, according to the standards set within the country's constitution. Parliament would also have a role in the authorization of expenditures, and cooperating partners would have an opportunity to observe how their resources were used and the impact these were having.

Question

Could the speaker comment on why the 1992 peace agreement broke down and whether things could have been done differently?

Could the speaker comment on the electoral challenges that Frelimo will face?

Could the speaker further elaborate on the process of decentralization, whether governors will be elected, and whether decentralization is linked to combating poverty?

Could the speaker comment on the situation regarding former fighters' pensions, many of whom complain of the difficulties of obtaining these in rural areas?

Filipe Nyusi

The speaker invited José Pacheco, the minister of agriculture, to comment on the dialogue process with Renamo, in his capacity as the leader of the government delegation to the dialogue.

José Pacheco

José Pacheco described how the development of a democratic system with multiparty elections was established through the 1992 General Peace Agreement. As a result of the peace agreement, Frelimo, Renamo and the Democratic Movement of Mozambique (MDM) all gained seats in parliament, former Renamo guerrilla fighters were appointed to senior positions within the army, and Renamo was asked to present members for integration into the army and police. The speaker explained that the latter never happened, and Renamo asked for further dialogue with the government 22 years after the peace agreement was signed. Their first complaint regarding the system of electoral legislation had been addressed and an electoral law that satisfies all parties had been drawn up. The second point involved the structure of the defence and security forces. Although the terms of reference for the international military observers are almost finalized, the speaker detailed how issues surrounding the implementation of the ceasefire, the military and socio-economic integration of Renamo forces and the disarmament of Renamo remained. However, he stated that the government believed an agreement would be reached and would continue to engage in dialogue, and he noted that Afonso Dhlakama had registered as a candidate for the elections in October.

Filipe Nyusi

The speaker clarified that decentralization would not include the election of governors. He described how local governance should be professionalized, with the selection of governors based on technical merit rather than voting, which could otherwise politicize local governance. The speaker stated that decentralization is an ongoing process, and he explained that young, highly educated professionals were being transferred to the district level to foster local development. The government is building housing and infrastructure in these areas to incentivize professionals to permanently relocate. The speaker detailed how financial management was a further area of decentralization, and he highlighted the example of the government's '7 million project.' Through this district development fund, a board made up of non-government local people authorizes the funding of citizens' development projects, with a focus on food production and the generation of jobs and income for rural Mozambicans. The speaker indicated that through such projects, decentralization empowered citizens at the local level by improving living standards and engaging individuals in wealth generating activity.

There are two groups of former combatants: the veterans who fought for national liberation and those who participated in the armed conflict between the government and Renamo. The latter group claimed to have equal rights to those of the liberation veterans, but the speaker stated that this was not a viable claim as the two groups fought at different stages of the country's history. The speaker described how the fighters had been demobilized and compensated after the signing of the General Peace Agreement and a pension scheme had been established. He explained how individuals sometimes threatened to go on strike based on their claims that their pensions are insufficient, yet they are demanding higher pay than the salary for soldiers on active duty. He stated that the government was taking steps to ameliorate the situation and had established a ministry for the different veterans and engaged them in dialogue in order to better understand their problems.