

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF SADC ON THE
OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE PLEDGE BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE AND OPPOSITION PARTY
RENAMO TO CONDUCT PEACEFUL ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER 2019,**

6 AUGUST 2019,

MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

Checked

Against

Delivery

Your Excellency Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique;

Honourable Ossufo Momade, President of RENAMO, Official Opposition of the Republic of Mozambique;

Your Excellencies here present;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The First of August 2019 will go down in the annals of history, as a day where the pendulum swung in favour of lasting peace, for the People of Mozambique. On behalf of the Government and People of Namibia and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), I welcome this landmark peace accord and congratulate my dear Brothers, His Excellency President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and Honourable Ossufo Momade, leader of RENAMO, for placing a high premium on peace and stability for the development of all Mozambicans.

As outgoing Chair of the SADC family, this final act of my tenure is without doubt one of the highlights of what has been a fulfilling year. Indeed, this is a crowning moment for me and I am pleased to have been invited to witness this momentous occasion, before I handover to my Brother President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli next week. What you have been able to accomplish collectively, as the People of Mozambique, is a giant

step forward for the entire region and continent.

The Peace Accord and Signing of the Peace Pledge today are in line with the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration of the African Union, in which the Heads of State and Government pledged to silence the guns and end all wars by December 2020, as part of efforts to promote an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa; the Africa We Want. Mozambique has shown that *Silencing the Guns* is not mere rhetoric. You have walked the talk. To buttress your commitment to Silencing the Guns, SADC urges all Parties to implement the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process and in this regard, stands ready to support the Republic of Mozambique in her preparations for an International Conference to mobilize funds for the DDR process. Even as we mark the end of an era of war, we recognize that the work of achieving lasting peace has just begun. I am confident that my Brothers, President Nyusi and Honourable Momade will carry out this process to its logical conclusion.

As you move towards General Elections in October 2019 and as part of our efforts to consolidate democracy in our region, SADC stands ready to support the Government and People of Mozambique, in line with the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and in the spirit of Pan-African solidarity.

Your Excellencies,

My dear Brother, His Excellency President Filipe Nyusi, following Cyclones IDAI and Kenneth, the People of Mozambique have endured a lot over the passed few months. Despite these adversities of devastating proportion, Mozambicans have demonstrated resilience; they have remained hopeful and optimistic about their prospects for a better tomorrow. I commend you my dear Brother, for your foresight, stewardship and exemplary leadership during what has been without question, a very difficult period.

I always say that one does not make peace with a friend, but one makes peace with an adversary. By signing this Peace Pledge today, the People of Mozambique have chosen to live by the enduring value of Peace. The Peace Accord and the Peace Pledge you are cementing today are a tribute to the hard work and cooperation of countless Mozambican leaders and citizens.

Today marks a glorious triumph for the People of Mozambique, the region and continent at large. For this is the day you say No to violence; This is the day you choose peace to prevail over conflict; and this is the day you hold hands and march forward, towards the shared ideals of peace, development and prosperity.

I Thank You.