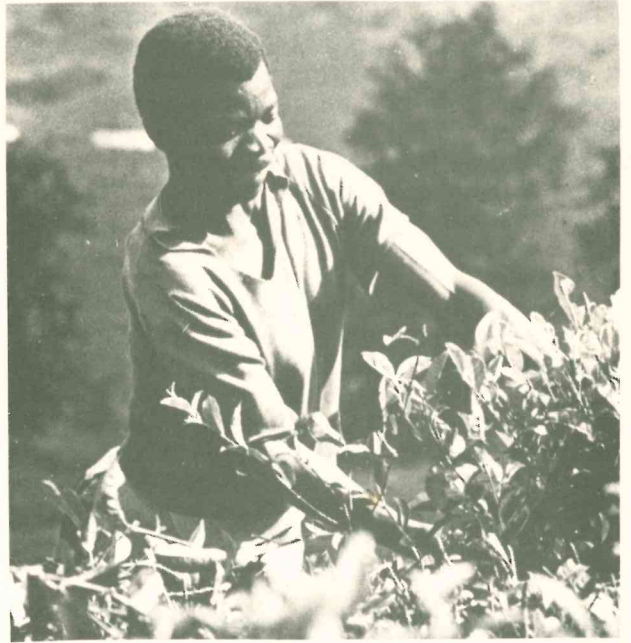


PROFILE



MOZAMBIQUE

I. HISTORY

When the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama arrived on the Indian Ocean coast at the end of the fifteenth century, he found in the area that is now Mozambique a dynamic society with trading links to the African hinterland and to the Middle East and China. In 1752 the Portuguese proclaimed Mozambique their colony, and in the same century established a flourishing trade in slaves. With the partition of Africa by the European powers at the end of the nineteenth century, Portugal's army finally consolidated Lisbon's control over Mozambique, but the last pockets of African military resistance were only defeated in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

The Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) was created in 1962 under the presidency of Dr Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane. When attempts to negotiate independence from Portugal failed, FRELIMO launched an armed liberation struggle in 1964. Dr Mondlane was assassinated with a book bomb sent by the Portuguese secret police in 1969, and soon afterwards Samora Moisés Machel was elected second President of FRELIMO.

During the armed struggle FRELIMO liberated large areas of territory from colonial rule, and began to introduce health and education programmes and other policies aimed at social and economic development. In April 1974 a military coup d'état overthrew the Caetano dictatorship in Portugal, and following negotiations between the new government and FRELIMO an independence agreement was signed in September. Joaquim Chissano became Prime Minister in the Transitional Government, and full Independence was declared on 25 June 1975 with Samora Machel as first President of the Republic. Joaquim Chissano became Foreign Minister, and continued in this post until 1986.

Colonialism left deep scars of economic backwardness, poverty, wretchedness, illiteracy and dependence. For example, the colonial economy was essentially based on earnings from rail and harbour services and contracts for the supply of cheap labour to neighbouring countries. Industry provided employment to a mere 2% of the active labour force, and some 70% of the industrial stock was concentrated in the main cities.

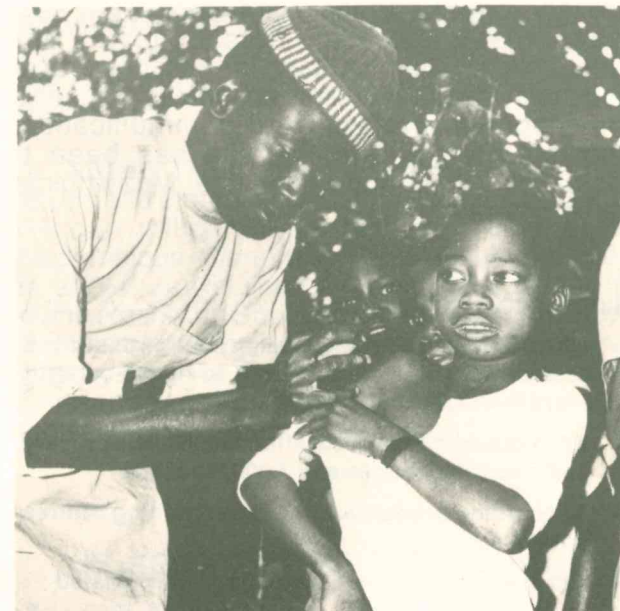
In the social and cultural context the effects of Portuguese domination were equally severe. The task taken up by Mozambicans on 25 June 1975 was therefore an arduous one: to raise a nation, to reconstruct and develop the economy and build a new society, to eliminate the consequences of colonialism, discrimination and racism.

II. POST-INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPMENT

As a consequence of the strategy and programme of social and economic reconstruction laid down for the first five years of independence, there were some substantial improvements both in the national economy and in the daily lives of the people:

- **growth in gross industrial production of 13.7% by 1981**
- **exports doubled**
- **textile production tripled**
- **77,800 acres of irrigation schemes, 620 miles of road, more than 620 miles of power lines built**
- **47% of the population with access to minimum sanitary facilities by 1980, compared with 3% in the early 1970s**
- **1.5 million people with access to piped water, compared with 200,000 in 1975**

- **4,600 secondary school teachers trained, compared with 100 existing in 1975**
- **1.2 million children attending primary school, compared with 330,000 in 1975**
- **Illiteracy rate reduced from 92% to 70% by 1986**
- **900 rural health posts and centres opened by 1985**



III. DESTABILISATION

Mozambique is under attack by the apartheid South African regime because its internal policies threaten the regime by providing an example and aspiration for those fighting apartheid inside South Africa.

Shortly after independence, the security services of the illegal regime in Rhodesia created a bandit group largely composed of former collaborators

with the colonial regime and fugitive petty criminals to carry out reconnaissance and terrorist operations in Mozambique in support of the Rhodesian armed forces. In 1980, with the independence of Zimbabwe, control of the group was passed to South Africa.

Since then the armed bandits have been under South African guidance and control, and dependent on South African and other external military, logistic and financial support. They have been responsible for acts of terror and destruction. Their primary targets have been teachers, health workers, economic and social development projects and communications infrastructures, and the aim has been to destabilise and undermine the Mozambican government.

Losses to date include:

- 800 rural health posts and health centres destroyed or sacked, with loss of access to health care for more than 2,000,000 people
- 2,651 schools destroyed, affecting 500,800 primary and secondary pupils and 7,000 teachers
- 36 boarding schools and 4 teacher training centres destroyed
- 400 teachers murdered, kidnapped or mutilated
- 164 locomotives and 352 wagons and passenger coaches damaged or destroyed
- over 310 miles of high tension power line destroyed
- 2 sugar factories destroyed
- total damage estimated at a minimum of US\$ 5-5.5 billion
- 4,500,000 civilians displaced by the scorched earth policy and no longer self-supporting
- 1,100,000 displaced people, 3,300,000 seriously affected, and 5,900,000 facing food shortages in towns and countryside

Direct aggression by South African army units has taken place, including bombing raids against houses in Maputo (1981 and 1983) and the destruction of fuel storage tanks in Beira (1982).

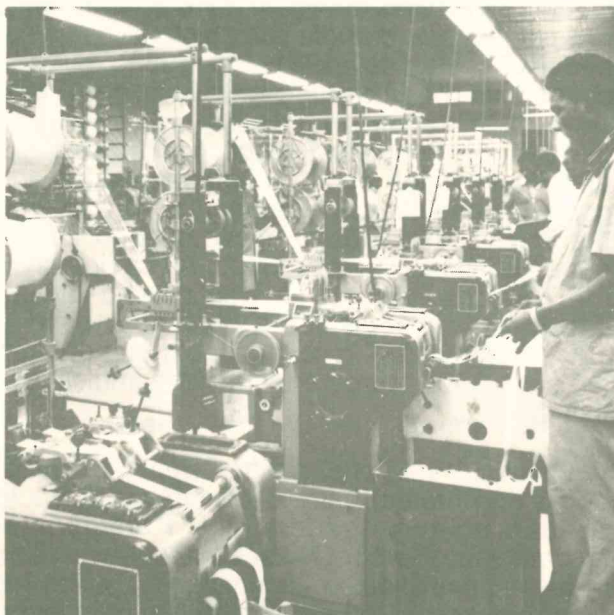
In 1984 the People's Republic of Mozambique and South Africa signed a non-aggression and good neighbourliness agreement which covered the ending of all South African support for the armed bandits. However, South Africa breached the Nkomati Accord, as was proved by the documents captured at the Gorongosa base in 1985. In May 1987 a commando group entered the capital and murdered three Mozambicans in their homes.

In October 1986, after several weeks of verbal abuse and threats against Mozambique by South African military leaders, the President of Mozambique, Samora Moisés Machel, was killed in as yet unexplained circumstances when his plane crashed in South Africa after being diverted from its course by a false beacon. Following his tragic death, the Frelimo Party elected Joaquim Chissano as its President, upon which he became the second President of the Republic.

IV. ECONOMIC REHABILITATION

A combination of the effects of destabilisation and successive periods of droughts or floods in different parts of the country led the government to declare a national Emergency in 1987, and appeal to the international community for assistance. Simultaneously, new steps were taken to stimulate the economy and resolve the problems arising from Mozambique's foreign debt.

In 1984 a Foreign Investment Law passed, and Mozambique joined the IMF and the World Bank. An economic action programme included the distribution of land to peasant and private



producers, the liberalisation of agricultural prices, the rehabilitation of key industries producing consumer goods for the countryside, the reorganisation of the private sector and the decentralisation and simplification of planning procedures and stimulation of private investment.

In January 1987 a three-year Economic Rehabilitation Programme was launched. Measures included a substantial devaluation of the local currency, budgetary and credit restrictions, changes in pricing and salary policies, and other organisational steps. On the basis of this programme the IMF approved a three-year structural adjustment programme for 1987-9, for a total of SDR 28.67 million. The World Bank likewise approved a second rehabilitation credit of US\$ 110 million.

Economic results for the last two years show a growth in the GNP of 4% for 1987, and 4.6% for

1988. Agricultural production also improved in 1988, with growth of 11% in the first half of the year. Major projects under way include the Beira Corridor Programme, the rehabilitation of the northern railway line to Malawi and the renovation of the Southern Limpopo railway to Zimbabwe.

V. MOZAMBIQUE IN THE WORLD

Mozambique is a member of the United Nations Organisation, the Organisation of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement. Within Southern Africa it is one of the six Front Line States (with Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Angola) and a founder member of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

The government is engaged in a series of political, diplomatic and military efforts to establish an atmosphere of peace in the country and in the region to allow conditions for the free development of its economic and social policies. Mozambique believes that the struggle against underdevelopment requires an appropriate partnership of national and international efforts to establish justice and equality in a stable context, and to build the economic, commercial, financial and technical links appropriate for making the best use of resources and capacities to the benefit of all parties concerned.

January 1989

