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# POLÍTICA MOÇAMBICANA

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## Mozambique paralyzed, echoing with the rhythm of Pots and Pans Protests

- The country stands still, but it is far from silent. From 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM on November 15 and 16, the sound of banging pots echoed across the nation, with Maputo—the capital—no longer just known as the city of acacias, but now as the city of protest drums. This sound carries an unmistakable political message: a loud and clear “Leave now!”



In southern Mozambique, the act of banging pots carries deep symbolism. It's a traditional way of signaling that there is nothing left to offer a visitor, urging them to leave. The political message of this protest to Frelimo is simple: "Your time is up. It's time to go."

From their homes, balconies, and streets, the people are making this statement loud and clear. It is the sound of hope, of a nation longing for days free from corruption and bad governance that have robbed generations of their future. It is both a cry for freedom and a collective act of resistance.

## A Paralyzed Nation and the Constitutional Council's Silence

While the pots make noise, the country remains paralyzed. Everyone is waiting for the Constitutional Council (CC) to take a stand. But the CC hides behind silence and a lack of transparency, failing to announce a timeline for the declaration of electoral results. This lack of clarity is itself a political maneuver, an extension of electoral manipu-

lation that erodes the credibility of Mozambique's institutions.

The CC appears to act reactively, swayed by the social climate rather than adhering to any concrete plan. This allows Frelimo to avoid dialogue, stalling progress toward stability and prosperity—goals that seem increasingly distant amid decades of corruption and mismanagement.

## Leadership from the "Government in Exile"

In this leadership vacuum, guidance has come from Venâncio Mundlane, the presidential candidate who claims victory in the highly contested October 9 elections, marred by allegations of fraud—the root cause of Mozambique's deepening chaos. Despite official results from the National Electoral Commission (CNE) declaring Frelimo's Daniel Chapo as the winner, Mundlane, supported by the Optimist People's Party for Mozambique's Development (PODEMOS), insists he won the election. These elections, widely regarded as the most fraudulent since Mozambique's first democratic vote in 1994, have plunged the nation into unprecedented turmoil.

Currently operating from an undisclosed location, Mundlane functions as a "government in exile", mobilizing citizens through live broadcasts on WhatsApp and Facebook. Through these platforms, he disseminates directives that shape public and political life in the country.

In recent days, Maputo has been brought to a standstill. From Wednesday to Friday, government institutions were either inactive or operating at minimal capacity. Public transport came to a halt, and essential services vanished. Ports and railways were either paralyzed or functioning at half capacity.

The fragile state machinery is unable to enforce law and order, and yet it also refuses to

engage in dialogue to address the political crisis engulfing the country. Instead of seeking solutions, the government resorts to repression. Meanwhile, officials deliver inflammatory speeches, labeling the people as "vandals" and "urban terrorists."

The faces of this rhetoric are Interior Minister Pascoal Ronda and Police General Commander Bernardino Rafael, who have become the architects of repression, issuing orders for the police, especially the Rapid Intervention Unit (UIR), to kill civilians. As of Saturday, November 16, more than 60 people had been killed, hundreds injured, and over 2,000 detained, many of whom have since been released.

## An Unprecedented Crisis

Mozambique is grappling with its most significant political crisis in decades. Never before has the state and society been so paralyzed. The lack of leadership and Frelimo's refusal to engage in dialogue have pushed the country into a deep impasse, with no clear path to resolution.

Frelimo, as the ruling party, has shown no interest in dialogue. This is evident in statements from its senior members, including Alcinda de Abreu, a member of the party's Political Commission. Instead of acknowledging the current crisis as a result of Frelimo's misgovernance, she has revived outdated conspiracy theories,

claiming that the unrest is part of an external agenda to overthrow the party.

As calls for dialogue are ignored, repression intensifies. Security forces are being used to carry out illegal orders, violently suppressing and killing citizens in a desperate attempt to maintain power and the status quo.

## How Much Longer?

Mozambique faces an authoritarian regime that prioritizes its own interests over the needs of the people. But how much longer can this autocratic governance persist? How long will Frelimo continue to shut the doors to dialogue and peace?

The sound of banging pots is a warning: the people have awakened, and no amount of repression can silence the cry for freedom that now echoes through the streets. Mozambique's history is being rewritten with the sound of protest. The world is listening. It's time to act.



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