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Political Detente: Venâncio Mondlane declares a week-long pause in protests

- Presidential candidate Venâncio Mondlane surprised the Mozambican political landscape by declaring a week-long “detente”, introducing a strategic pause in the protests he has been leading since the end of October 2024. The movement, which has already resulted in 130 deaths due to repression, sparked fear among the population, particularly with the promised “TURBO V8” level of protest intensity.



The announced measures represent a change in approach aimed at addressing the current national context. Starting Thursday, December 19, 2024, the week will be marked by solidarity, mourning, and strategic preparation for the awaited Constitutional Council's (CC) ruling on the election results.

Schedule and Objectives of the “Detente”

1. Four Days of Mourning

Beginning Thursday, the nation will be invited to reflect and mourn the lives lost during the protests. This gesture seeks to honor the memory of the deceased, such as Elvino Dias, considered a popular hero.

2. Solidarity with Cabo Delgado

The revised approach to the protests will allow for the channeling of humanitarian aid to Cabo Delgado, a region severely affected by the recent cyclone. Mondlane emphasized that the priority will be addressing the “cry for help” from Mozambique’s most vulnerable citizens.

3. Normal Activities

Throughout the week, economic and social activities will not be disrupted. The routine is expected to continue as usual, but with symbolic moments of reflection:

- **Daily, from 1:00 PM to 1:15 PM:** A symbolic pause will take place nationwide to sing the national anthem and pray for justice.

4. Celebration and Mobilization

- **Sunday, December 22, from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM:** On the eve of the Constitutional Council’s decisive ruling, citizens are called upon to blow vuvuzelas and whistles as a form of peaceful protest.

December 23: The Decisive Moment

Mondlane made it clear that the nation will enter standby mode on December 23, awaiting the Constitutional Council’s ruling: “Everything will stop to hear the ruling. This will be the moment to know whether the

country will descend into chaos or move forward.”

He also encouraged those who can to gather near the Constitutional Council as an act of vigil and anticipation.



The TURBO V8: The Role of the Constitutional Council

Venâncio Mondlane emphasized that the final decision regarding the “TURBO V8” level will not be his, but will instead rest with the Constitutional Council. He humorously pointed out that the Council’s ruling will determine the country’s next steps: “The TURBO V8 will be announced by Lúcia, from the Constitutional Council, with her pronouncement.”

Conclusion: A Week of Reflection and Hope

The announced pause represents a careful strategy combining solidarity, mourning, and peaceful mobilization. With growing anticipation surrounding the ruling, Mondlane’s speech balances firmness and pacification, preparing the country for what could be a historic and decisive moment.




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