

Mozambique's security discussed in Rwanda!

- A delegation of senior officers of the Defense and Security Forces led by the Head of General Staff of the FADM (Joaquim Mangrassa) and the General Commander of the PRM (Bernardino Rafael) went to Kigali to discuss the sovereignty of Mozambique, with emphasis on the security situation in Cabo Delgado.
- According to Rwandan daily The New Times, the delegations of the two countries agreed on Sunday to establish joint security teams that will, among other tasks, design new strategies to improve the stabilization process and reform of the security sector in Cabo Delgado. The Heads of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Mozambique and Rwanda signed an agreement to expand the radius of intervention of Rwandan troops in the country.



- The question that arises is why sovereignty issues of Mozambique have to be discussed in Rwanda? Why was the meeting that decided on the creation of joint working teams to design new security strategies not held in Mozambique?
- The Kigali meeting between the defense and security officials of Mozambique and Rwanda takes place on the eve of the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit, which is expected to decide, once again, on extending the mandate of the region's troops fighting violent extremism in Cabo Delgado since August 2021.



in Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado province. Still in Pemba, President Paul Kagame went to greet the Rwandan troops and revealed that the duration of the mission in Cabo Delgado would be decided and announced by the Mozambican government. That is, there was and there is no deadline yet for the withdrawal of the Rwandan contingent that fights violent extremism in Mozambique.

In fact, last October Kagame made it known that the number of Rwandan military and police deployed in Mozambique had increased to about two thousand men¹. The Rwandan forces are fighting in the districts of Mocímboa da Praia and Palma, the latter being the epicenter of the Rovuma basin natural gas exploitation projects.

Six months after the beginning of the military intervention in Cabo Delgado, it is still unclear how Rwanda will be compensated for such a high investment in human and financial resources. The Presidents of Mozambique (Filipe Nyusi) and Rwanda (Paul Kagame) insist on the narrative that the military intervention arises in the context of good bilateral relations between the two states and that it is financed by the Rwandan government and does not entail future costs for Mozambique.

But the truth is that Rwanda is not investing millions of dollars in the military intervention in Cabo Delgado without a cost-benefit perspective, even if it is in the medium or long term. In fact, the question is how a low-income country would be financing a major military operation (about two thousand men) with its own funds.

With a highly trained army to deal with insurgency, Rwanda is one of the main troop-contributing states to UN peacekeeping missions. Prior to the deployment of men to Mozambique, there were about 6,550 Rwandan troops serving with the United Nations, mostly in hot spots such as South Sudan, the Darfur region (Sudan) and the Central African Republic². In turn, the Rwandan National Police has participated in peace and security restoration missions in Ivory Coast, Mali, Li-

On January 9, Rwandan troops completed six (6) months in Cabo Delgado. It was on July 9, 2021 that Rwanda announced the deployment of a military contingent consisting of 880 military staff and 120 police officers to assist the Mozambican forces in the fight against violent extremism in Cabo Delgado.

A month after the beginning of the military operations, the Rwandan troops announced the recovery of the strategic municipal villa-

ge of Mocímboa da Praia, which had been in the hands of violent extremists for almost a year. In addition to that, the joint Rwandan and Mozambican forces recovered several villages in the district of Mocímboa da Praia, destroyed enemy bases and seized several weapons.

In September, Paul Kagame was guest of honor at the celebrations for the Day of the Armed Forces of Mozambique (September 25), whose central ceremonies took place

¹ <https://www.africa-press.net/mozambique/video/nearly-2000-rwandan-troops-fighting-insurgency-in-mozambique>

² <https://www.opais.co.mz/as-tropas-de-ruanda-transcendem-blocos-para-unir-a-africa/>

beria, South Sudan, and Haiti, and deployments at the United Nations headquarters in New York³.

Rwanda's participation in various peace missions is funded by the United Nations, and the Government of Kigali uses some of the funds to modernize its armed forces and police. For example, this year 2022 Rwanda is expecting to receive the equivalent of USD 171 million from the United Nations in reimbursements for the costs of peacekeeping operations⁴.

On the day that marked the passage of six (6) months of the presence of Rwandan troops, Mozambican delegation of the Defense and Security Forces was in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, to discuss with the Rwandan counterpart issues related to security in Cabo Delgado. The defense and security officials from Mozambique and Rwanda agreed to establish joint teams that will design new strategies to improve the security stabilization process in Cabo Delgado and the success of ongoing operations in the province.

The Mozambican delegation was led by the Head of General Staff of the Armed Defense Forces of Mozambique (FADM), Admiral Joaquim Mangrassa, and the General Commander of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM), Bernardino Rafael. The Rwandan delegation included the Head of Staff of the Rwandan Defense Forces, General Jean-Bosco Kazura, the General Inspector of the Rwandan National Police, Dan Munyuza, and the General Secretary of the Rwandan National Intelligence and Security Services, Major General Joseph Nzabamwita.

The meeting took place at the Rwanda National Police Headquarters in Kigali. Quoted by Rwandan newspaper The New Times⁵, the FADM Head of General Staff said the Mozambican delegation's visit was aimed at thanking the Rwandan government in general, and its security bodies in particular, for their help in the fight against violent extremists. "We came here to thank the Government of Rwanda, but also to discuss other security measures to support the Mozambican forces to improve their capabilities to fight the insurgents"⁶.



³ <https://www.opais.co.mz/as-tropas-de-ruanda-transcendem-blocos-para-unir-a-africa/>

⁴ <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/how-20212022-budget-will-be-financed>

⁵ <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-mozambique-security-chiefs-discuss-current-cabo-delgado-situation>

⁶ <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-mozambique-security-chiefs-discuss-current-cabo-delgado-situation>



On Monday, the Head of Staff of the Rwandan Defense Forces, General Jean-Bosco Kazura, and the Head of General Staff of the Armed Defense Forces of Mozambique (FADM), Admiral Joaquim Mangrassa, signed an agreement to expand the intervention

of Rwandan troops in the country, at a time when violent extremism is already affecting Niassa province, with attacks confirmed in the Mecula district. The Kigali meeting between the heads of defense and security of Mozambique and

Rwanda takes place on the eve of the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government that should decide, once again, to extend the mandate of the region's troops fighting violent extremism in Cabo Delgado since August 2021.



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