

U.S. AMBASSADOR CHALLENGES MOZAMBIQUE TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINIANS AND RECALLS WORDS OF SAMORA MACHEL

A call to solidarity, a call to unity*



PETER H. VROOMAN
U.S. Ambassador to
Mozambique

Since arriving in Mozambique a month ago, I have spoken with many about this short but rich history as an independent and sovereign nation. I have heard about the freedom fighters and the challenges they faced and fought for as they aspired for independence.

I remember what the first President Samora Machel said at the Maputo Central Hospital in Nineteen Seventy-Six (1976): "International solidarity is not an act of charity: It is an act of unity among allies fighting on different terrains for the same objective... Solidarity has no race or color, and its country has no borders." This idea is as important now, as it was then.

Here in Mozambique, the solidarity between the American and the Mozambican people has allowed us to almost halve the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS. We are funding humanitarian assistance for displaced people in Cabo Delgado. Three years ago we responded in solidarity with the people of Manica, Sofala and other provinces with aid, food and water for the victims of Cyclones Idai and Kenneth. We are the largest donor of vaccines against COVID-19 through the COVAX initiative of the international community. Our solidarity continues because it is a factor that brings people together.

Now let's look further north where international solidarity is also needed. After years of peace, Ukrainians face an unprovoked invasion of their sovereign nation. Since 1991, the people of Ukraine have freely chosen their own path. The Ukrainian president and parliamentary representatives were elected through free and fair elections. Regardless of their political trends or opinions, the principles of humanity, sovereignty, and the right to life and self-determination supersede all others. We must stand together with Ukraine.

Putin has plunged Europe into war in hopes of reviving an empire at the cost of civilian lives. Russian tanks have advanced across Ukraine's border, destroying schools, homes, and hospitals, government buildings, and historical heritage. This Russian invasion has caused the deaths of thousands of people and displaced millions. Putin lies to his own people, his own soldiers, and the world to try to excuse himself from the war he started. And by launching a brutal and unwarranted attack on the people of Ukraine, Putin has also committed a brutal attack on the principles that underpin global solidarity.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people have responded with determination, unity, and defiance to the violation of their country's sovereignty, territorial integri-

ty, and right to peace.

Again, in the words of your first president, "Solidarity is an assertion that no people [is] alone, no people [is] isolated in the struggle for progress. (...) This struggle may be in Asia, in Europe, in America, or the struggle may be in Africa, but it is the same struggle."

Dear friends, the Ukrainians need the solidarity and support of all of us. We stand together with Ukraine.



President-Nyusi-and-Ambassador-Peter-H.-Vrooman



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Property: CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento
Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: Emídio Beula
Team: Emídio Beula, Dimas Sinoa, Américo Maluana
Layout: CDD

Address:
 Rua de Dar-Es-Salaam Nº 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Cidade de Maputo.
 Telefone: +258 21 085 797

CDD_moz
E-mail: info@cddmoz.org
Website: http://www.cddmoz.org

PROGRAMMATIC PARTNER

FINANCING PARTNERS

