

GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY ON A COLLISION COURSE

## Civil society demands deadline extension for the analysis of the preliminary draft of the National Land Policy review

- As part of the review of the National Land Policy, the Review Commission of the National Land Policy (CRPNT) has scheduled a meeting with civil society organizations interested in the process to discuss the next steps. The civil society organizations went to the meeting on Friday, 01st April, with the expectation of obtaining a response to the request for an extension of the deadline, from one to three months, for the analysis of the diagnostic document produced in the scope of the public consultation and the preliminary draft of the National Land Policy.



Because there was no response to the request, the civil society organizations decided to abandon the meeting that, in addition to the Review Commission of the National Land Policy, had the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Land and Environment, Emília Fumo. Civil society considers it impossible to work and conclude the analysis of the two documents within 30 days, given the complexity of the diagnostic that should reflect the concerns of the majority of Mozambicans.

Meanwhile, the National Land Policy Review Commission insists that civil society should analyze and work on the two proposals (diagnosis and preliminary draft) simultaneously, within 30 days, ignoring the request submitted to the Office of the Minister of Land and Environment, Ivete Maibaze. Four days after leaving the meeting with the Review Commission of the National Land Policy, civil society organizations met virtually to decide on other mechanisms to continue with the process.

In the meeting, the participants agreed that they should continue to demand a response to the request submitted to the Cabinet of the Minister of Land and Environment; they also agreed that they should elaborate a new diagnostic document and promote meetings in rural communities in all provinces.

Despite acknowledging that there were flaws in the process of listening to different stakeholders in the review of the Policy, the Government says that the diagnostic produced is legitimate. It is a contradictory argument, because by recognizing that there were mistakes in the consultation process in some parts of the country, it would be logical to say that the diagnostic is not legitimate. A publication by the Rural Environment Observatory shows that almost nothing was done to ensure the inclusion of populations displaced due to violent extremism in Cabo Delgado and natural disasters in the centre and north of the country, as well as the most vulnerable layers of society<sup>1</sup>.

In fact, the public consultation for the review of the National Land Policy took place in a context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, violent extremism in Cabo Delgado, political-military tension in Sofala and Manica, and natural disasters in the centre and north of the country, factors that contributed to the exclusion of a significant part of the population that was displaced from their areas of origin.

Civil society also denounces the introduction of elements in the diagnosis and in the preliminary draft of the review of Policy that



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were not part of the consultation process. As an example, it points out to the collateralization of the Right of Land Use and Exploitation (DUAT), i.e. the delivery of the DUAT as a guarantee for bank loans.

The first diagnostic of the auscultation was elaborated by the Government and presented to civil society in December last year. Days later, the civil society representatives in the process returned the document with some rectifications. While waiting for the response to the

proposal sent, the Government published the preliminary draft of the reviewed document, without taking into consideration the observations made by civil society.

CDD is convinced that the Government should conduct the process of reviewing the National Land Policy and related legislation in a transparent and inclusive way to enable the new instruments to be approved by Parliament to reflect the wishes of Mozambican society.

<sup>1</sup> <https://omrmz.org/omrweb/wp-content/uploads/Webinars-Contribui%C3%A7%C3%B5es-para-a-revis%C3%A3o-da-pol%C3%ADtica-nacional-de-terras.pdf>



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