



## **ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**PUBLIC – PRIVATE DIALOGUE CONFERENCE  
Gaborone, May 9 – 11, 2007**

### **SPEECH OF HON SARA VASSANEGY MP OF MOZAMBIQUE**

Honorable Chairperson

Honorable Minister

My fellow colleague's members of Parliament

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Mozambican Parliament and on my own behalf our sincere gratitude for the invitation. This is an extraordinary opportunity to participate and share with you all, the role of Parliamentarians in the process of dialogue between the business community and the private sector.

As a legislation body, the Parliamentarians have the responsibility to ensure a conducive atmosphere for legal and social activities. These activities are aimed to reduce absolute poverty and improving the quality of living conditions. It is also in the interest of the Mozambican Parliamentarians to increase efficiency and performance of the public and private sector, in order to achieve better Governance and Public administration.

The implementation of these National deals requires a strong commitment, corporation and dialogue between Government State Agency, public and private sectors including economic, industrial and commercial associations.

As Parliamentarians our role is vital in formulating in approving legislation. This legislation must create a favorable environment and respond to contemporarily and new challenge. The train will not wait for us.

Our responsibility is to acknowledge openly the existing constraints and make efforts to find adequate solutions. The implementation of these solutions has to be supported by adequate legislation that promotes the satisfaction of all actors.

In this light, the involvement of the Mozambican Parliament is guided according the flowing key function:

- 1) The representatives: The Parliamentarians consult with their constituents in order to be able to present their views on National police.

- 2) Legislative: The parliamentarians review bills and rectify Laws which are necessary to support reforms and development programs including attraction of investments.
- 3) Financial: The Parliamentarians oversee the National budget spending. In this regards, we insure that resource allocation is consistence with the national development objectives.
- 4) Oversight: A Parliament and Parliamentary committee monitors and evaluates the implementation of development programs.
- 5) Consulting: Maintaining permanent contact on matters of particular interest with the civil society business organizations, with Unions on a local, regional and a national level.

The public and private dialogue must be seen as a continuous process aiming to satisfy the need of the citizens to achieve a progressive economy which generates jobs and better service. Investment and open participation of the private sector will grow without the restriction caused by heavy bureaucracy.

The Mozambican Parliament is also serving as a bridge between the business community, private sector, and the Government on mater related to Customs and Tax policies.

The last evidence of this goodwill is expressed by the revision of the proposed fiscal benefits on mining and oil exploitation where the parliament is playing a big role in order to approve a police that can benefit in attracting

new investments. Regarding this matter, the public and private dialogue is taking place at the Parliament.

The labour law draft, which is being discussed these days in the Parliament, is another example of Mozambican Parliament goodwill.

The commitment of the Parliament to the public and private dialogue shall also be carried out for the achievement of the Millennium development goals. In other words, popular participation; information dissemination; good governance; poverty reduction; economic empowerment are fundamental for us.

The Parliamentary involvement in this process must be supported by;

- 1) Constitutional: The balance of power between executive and legislative branch of the Government determines the degree to which the Parliament plays a meaningful role.
- 2) Political: A political environment characterized by peace, stability and active legislative engagement.
- 3) Technical: Analytical capabilities and access to resources influence parliamentarian effectiveness in matters such as Public and Private Dialogue.

The members of parliament are sworn in to fulfill a 5 years mandate. Therefore important challenges must be addressed in order that an effective

participation of the Parliamentarians in the Public and Private dialogue reaches success namely:

- 1) Capacity: It is essential to capacitate Parliamentarians and their staff, especially with respect to economic and sector issues.
- 2) Information: It is crucial to improve the quality of information available to parliament.
- 3) Communication: It is important to improve the communication level and the channels between the Parliamentarians and the business community and be able to listen to business.
- 4) Legislation: It is helpful to work with Parliamentarians on the development of police on tax issues and investments.
- 5) Networking: It is necessary to build up networks with Parliamentarians to facilitate information sharing and collaboration.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is relevant to share with you the Mozambican experience of the “one stop shop” introduced in the country in 2004.

The introduction of these “one stop shops” has reduced significantly the waiting time and given a strong sign against corruption. Today, it is possible

to obtain information on economic matters and business opportunities at provincial level, in one day, in one place and, without moving from counter to counter.

It is also possible to register a company in one day, in Mozambique.

The Mozambican economy has grown during the last three years between 7 to 8 % per year.

These are parts of the positive results produced within the Public and Private Dialogue in Mozambique.

Looking at our day to day reality we appreciate and we are conscious of the fact that we still have a long path to walk.

On the other hand we are confident that with our greater involvement with the people, Government, State agency, public and private sectors we shall make it.

Finally, allow me to thank the organizers for the opportunities to share our experience with the distinguished participants of this seminar

**Kanimambo --- A luta continue**