

# **Building Prosperity: Mozambique's Journey from Potential to Sustainable Development**

**Keynote Speech Delivered by**

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## **PROTOCOLS**

**His Excellency Daniel Francisco Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique---Thank you for your excellent, powerful and directional speech, and vision for Mozambique.**

**President of the National Assembly;  
The Prime Minister; Former Prime Ministers.  
Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary;  
Members of Government;  
The Mayor of Maputo;**

**Excellencies, Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions;  
Distinguished Leaders of Political Parties;**

**Leaders of Industry; Institutional Investors; Development Partners;  
Members of academia, civil society, religious leaders;  
The youth of Mozambique;  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Bom Dia Atodush!**

It is a great honor to be with you today.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency President Daniel Francisco Chapo for the invitation to be your Special Guest and to address this distinguished gathering at such an important moment for Mozambique.

When I received your letter of invitation a few days ago, I immediately accepted. I cancelled all prior engagements. I did so because I admire your leadership and vision for Mozambique; and because I love Mozambique!

The title of my keynote address is:

**“Building Prosperity: Mozambique’s Journey from Potential to Sustainable Development.”**

This title reflects a simple but important truth:

**Mozambique’s future will not be determined only by what it possesses.  
It will be determined by what it builds.**

Mozambique is a nation of extraordinary opportunity.

A strategic location on the Indian Ocean.

A coastline of more than 2,700 kilometers connecting Southern Africa to global markets.

Significant energy resources.

Critical minerals of growing global importance.

Vast agricultural potential.

A young population of approximately 22 million people.

And above all, a resilient people whose determination has carried the country through decades of transformation.

These are powerful foundations.

But history teaches us that potential does not automatically become prosperity.

Resources do not automatically become development.

Geography does not automatically become competitiveness.

The difference is created by vision, institutions, investment, and execution.

Prosperity emerges when resources become industries.

When infrastructure becomes connectivity.

When investment becomes employment.

When economic growth becomes improved quality of life.

**Because prosperity is not inherited.**

**It is built.**

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## **Mozambique's Development Journey**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Every successful development journey begins with an honest understanding of both achievements and challenges.

Mozambique has made important progress.

The country has strengthened its role as a strategic partner in Southern Africa.

It has developed national frameworks for transformation.

It has attracted significant investment in energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and other productive sectors.

But important challenges remain.

Poverty continues to affect many Mozambican families.

Economic opportunity must expand more broadly across regions and communities.

Employment creation remains one of the country's most urgent priorities.

With one of Africa's youngest populations, Mozambique faces both a responsibility and an opportunity: the responsibility to create pathways for young people, and the opportunity to transform its demographic profile into an economic advantage.

Climate vulnerability also remains a major concern.

Cyclones, floods, and droughts have demonstrated how external shocks can affect communities, agriculture, infrastructure, and economic activity.

Building resilience is therefore not only an environmental responsibility.

It is an economic necessity.

These challenges are real.

But they do not define Mozambique's future.

They define the work that must be done.

The central question is not whether Mozambique has potential.

That question has already been answered.

The question is:

**How does Mozambique transform potential into lasting prosperity?**

**The answer lies in what the country chooses to build.**

And it must build on **five** strategic pillars.

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## **Pillar One: Build Competitive Industries**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The first foundation of sustainable prosperity is building competitive industries.

Countries do not develop simply because they possess resources.

They develop when they create productive capacity around those resources.

This is the difference between extraction and transformation.

Mozambique's energy resources represent one of the greatest opportunities in its economic history.

The Rovuma Basin has positioned Mozambique among countries with significant global natural gas resources and has attracted major international investment.

But the greatest value of energy is not only the revenue generated through exports.

The greater opportunity is what energy makes possible.

Energy can power industries.

Support manufacturing.

Enable mineral processing.

Strengthen agriculture.

Expand digital infrastructure.

And improve the competitiveness of the broader economy.

The strategic question is therefore not only:

**“How much energy can Mozambique produce?”**

The more important question is:

**“How much economic capability can Mozambique build from its energy resources?”**

That is where lasting value is created.

The experience of successful economies demonstrates that natural resources generate the greatest benefits when they become foundations for broader industrial development.

Mozambique's ambition should therefore extend beyond exporting resources.

The ambition should be to build industries.

To develop local capabilities.

To create skilled employment.

To strengthen Mozambican participation in national and global value chains.

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The same principle applies to Mozambique's mineral resources.

Graphite.

Titanium.

Heavy mineral sands.

And other strategic resources position Mozambique within supply chains that will become increasingly important as the world transitions toward new energy systems.

But the opportunity is not simply to extract minerals.

The opportunity is to create value from them.

The countries that benefit most from natural resources are those that build capabilities around them.

They process.

They refine.

They manufacture.

They develop expertise.

Each step beyond extraction creates additional value.

It creates employment.

It develops skills.

It strengthens local enterprise.

Mozambique should therefore seek partnerships that support not only resource development, but industrial development.

Because resources provide opportunity.

But capabilities create prosperity.

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Agriculture remains another critical foundation of Mozambique's economic transformation.

With approximately 36 million hectares of arable land, Mozambique has significant agricultural potential.

But land alone does not create prosperity.

Productivity does.

Productivity requires investment.

Investment in irrigation.

Modern farming techniques.

Research and innovation.

Storage facilities.

Access to finance.

Reliable transport.

And connection to markets.

The opportunity is to transform agriculture from subsistence production into competitive enterprise.

To move from producing commodities to developing value chains.

From farms.

To processing facilities.

To markets.

To exports.

A stronger agricultural sector would improve food security, increase rural incomes, create employment, and support broader industrial development.

Agriculture is not only a sector.

It is a foundation for inclusive growth.

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The future of Mozambique's economy will not be determined only by the resources it possesses.

It will be determined by the industries it builds.

The objective is not simply to attract investment.

It is to transform investment into productive capacity.

The objective is not simply to export resources.

It is to create value.

The objective is not simply economic growth.

It is economic transformation.

This is the first pillar of prosperity:

## **Build competitive industries.**

Because nations are not transformed by what they discover.

They are transformed by what they develop.

## **Pillar Two: Build Human Capital**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The second foundation of sustainable prosperity is human capital.

Every successful economy is ultimately built by people.

Infrastructure does not innovate by itself.

Resources do not create industries by themselves.

Capital does not transform societies by itself.

People do.

Mozambique's greatest long-term asset is therefore not only what lies beneath its land and waters.

It is the knowledge, creativity, resilience, and ambition of its people.

With one of the youngest populations in the world, Mozambique has a historic opportunity to **transform demographic growth into economic strength**.

But a young population becomes an advantage only when people have access to education, skills, health, and opportunity.

This is why human capital must remain at the center of Mozambique's development strategy.

The countries that have successfully transformed their economies understood one fundamental principle:

## **Human capital is the foundation of competitiveness.**

Every engineer trained.

Every teacher supported.

Every entrepreneur empowered.

Every technician prepared for modern industry.

Every farmer equipped with new knowledge.

**Represents an investment in national capability.**

Mozambique's future industries will require skilled people.

Energy projects will require engineers, technicians, and specialists.

Manufacturing will require skilled workers and innovative entrepreneurs.

Agriculture will require knowledge, technology, and modern management.

The digital economy will require new capabilities and creativity.

For this reason, investment must continue in:

Quality education.

Technical and vocational training.

Universities and research.

Digital skills.

Entrepreneurship.

Healthcare.

Women's participation in the economy.

Youth employment.

**These are not only social priorities.**

**They are investments in national competitiveness.**

The question before Mozambique is therefore not only:

**“How do we create employment?”**

The deeper question is:

**“How do we prepare Mozambicans to lead the economy of the future?”**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mozambique’s development journey also includes the contribution of Mozambicans beyond its borders.

The **diaspora** represents an important extension of national capability.

It carries knowledge.

Skills.

Professional experience.

Entrepreneurial energy.

International networks.

Successful economies have demonstrated the value of diaspora engagement not only through financial contributions, but through investment, technology transfer, and partnerships.

Mozambique has the opportunity to strengthen these connections.

To encourage investment.

To facilitate knowledge exchange.

To support innovation.

A nation’s capabilities are not limited by geography.

They are strengthened by the commitment of its people wherever they may be.

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### **Pillar Three: Build Regional Connectivity**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The third foundation of prosperity is connectivity.

Mozambique's geography is one of its greatest strategic advantages.

Its location on the Indian Ocean.

Its coastline.

Its ports.

Its transport corridors.

Its connection to regional markets.

Together, these create the foundation for Mozambique to become a major gateway between Southern Africa and global markets.

The ports of Maputo, Beira, and Nacala are not only national assets.

They are regional economic platforms.

They connect neighboring countries to international trade.

They support regional integration.

They create opportunities for commerce and investment.

**But geography alone does not create competitiveness.**

**Connectivity does.**

A port creates value because it connects producers to markets.

A railway creates value because it connects resources to industry.

A road creates value because it connects communities to opportunity.

Infrastructure becomes transformational when it forms part of an integrated economic system.

This requires investment in:

Efficient logistics.

Modern customs systems.

Reliable transport networks.

Digital trade platforms.

Predictable regulations.

Strong institutions.

**The objective is not simply to build infrastructure.**

**The objective is to build economic connectivity.**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global economy is undergoing major change.

Supply chains are being reshaped.

Countries with reliable infrastructure, strategic locations, and competitive production capabilities will attract increasing investment.

Mozambique is well positioned to benefit from this transformation.

But the ambition must go beyond becoming a transit country.

Mozambique should aspire to become a regional platform for:

Commerce.

Industry.

Manufacturing.

Energy.

Agricultural trade.

Digital services.

This requires a long-term vision.

Infrastructure is not simply construction.

Infrastructure is economic architecture.

A port is not only a port.

It is a gateway for trade.

An energy system is not only infrastructure.

It is a foundation for industry.

Digital connectivity is not only technology.

It is access to opportunity.

A transport corridor is not only a road or railway.

It is a connection between people, businesses, and markets.

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Africa is entering a new era of economic integration.

The African Continental Free Trade Area provides an opportunity to create one of the world's largest integrated markets.

But integration requires connectivity.

It requires countries that can produce, trade, and compete.

Mozambique has an important role to play.

Its ports can connect regional economies.

Its energy resources can support industrial growth.

Its agricultural capacity can strengthen food systems.

Its young population can drive innovation.

Connectivity is ultimately about inclusion.

A farmer connected to markets has greater opportunity.

A student connected to information has greater opportunity.

A business connected to customers has greater opportunity.

A community connected to infrastructure has greater opportunity.

Economic transformation happens when opportunity becomes accessible.

That is why Mozambique's infrastructure agenda must remain connected to a broader development vision.

The objective is not simply to move goods.

It is to create possibilities.

Not simply to connect places.

But to connect people to opportunity.

This is the **third** pillar of transformation:

**Build regional connectivity.**

Because successful nations are not defined only by the advantages they possess.

They are defined by how effectively they connect those advantages to the world.

## **Pillar Four: Build Resilient Institutions**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fourth foundation of sustainable prosperity is institutional strength.

No country can achieve lasting transformation without institutions that create confidence.

Confidence among citizens.

Confidence among businesses.

Confidence among investors.

Confidence among development partners.

Natural resources, infrastructure, and capital are important.

But they create lasting value only when supported by strong institutions.

Institutions determine whether opportunity becomes progress.

They determine whether investment becomes development.

They determine whether economic growth becomes shared prosperity.

For Mozambique, building resilient institutions means strengthening the systems that support stability, transparency, accountability, and effective delivery.

This requires:

Efficient public administration.

Responsible management of public resources.

Predictable policies.

Strong regulatory frameworks.

Transparent decision-making.

And institutions capable of delivering results.

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**A country's competitiveness is determined not only by what it owns.**

**It is also determined by the quality of the systems that govern what it owns.**

This is particularly important for countries with significant natural resources.

Resource wealth creates opportunity.

But it also creates responsibility.

**The objective must be to ensure that today's resources create tomorrow's capabilities.**

That energy revenues support industrial development.

That mineral wealth supports skills and enterprise.

That infrastructure investment strengthens productivity.

That economic growth creates opportunities across all regions of the country.

This is the foundation of sustainable development.

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Institutional resilience also means the ability to withstand shocks.

Mozambique has experienced the impact of cyclones, floods, and droughts that have affected communities, agriculture, infrastructure, and economic activity.

Climate vulnerability is not only an environmental challenge.

It is an economic challenge.

Every damaged road affects trade.

Every disrupted harvest affects livelihoods.

Every damaged facility affects investment.

**For this reason, climate resilience should be understood as an economic investment.**

A resilient economy protects people.

A resilient economy protects infrastructure.

A resilient economy protects value.

Building resilience requires:

Infrastructure designed for future conditions.

Climate-smart agriculture.

Reliable energy systems.

Better disaster preparedness.

Stronger risk management.

These are not simply costs.

They are investments that protect national progress.

As global investors increasingly consider long-term risks, resilience will become an important factor in investment decisions.

**Countries that protect their development gains will be better positioned to attract sustainable capital.**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For this reason, Mozambique should consider, together with investors, development partners, and financial institutions, the establishment of a:

## **Mozambique Investment Resilience Fund.**

Such a platform could mobilize public and private capital to strengthen the country's ability to withstand climate and economic shocks.

The fund could support investments that:

Protect productive assets.

Strengthen infrastructure resilience.

Support climate-smart agriculture.

Enhance disaster preparedness.

Improve long-term economic stability.

**The message to investors is clear:**

**Do not invest only in Mozambique's resources.**

**Invest in Mozambique's resilience.**

**Because resilience protects value.**

**And protecting value supports sustainable returns.**

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## **Pillar Five: Build Strategic Partnerships**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fifth foundation of prosperity is partnership.

No country transforms itself alone.

Every successful development story has been built through cooperation between governments, businesses, communities, investors, and international partners.

The question before Mozambique is not only:

**“How much investment can we attract?”**

The deeper question is:

**“How can investment accelerate sustainable development?”**

Capital is essential.

But capital alone is not enough.

The structure of investment matters.

The purpose of investment matters.

The impact of investment matters.

**The strongest partnerships are those where national priorities and investor interests reinforce each other.**

Investors seek sustainable returns.

Governments seek development.

Communities seek opportunity.

**When these objectives align, investment becomes transformational.**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Africa possesses extraordinary assets:

Natural resources.

Energy potential.

Strategic locations.

Young populations.

Agricultural opportunity.

Yet one of Africa's greatest challenges has been converting these assets into productive capital.

The opportunity is to develop financing approaches that unlock value while preserving sovereignty and creating shared benefits.

Mozambique possesses assets of significant long-term value:

Natural gas resources.

Mineral resources.

Ports.

Transport corridors.

Infrastructure networks.

Future revenue streams.

The objective should not be to sell national wealth.

The objective should be to unlock its productive potential.

This requires innovative financing models that connect sovereign assets with long-term investment.

Such models require:

Strong governance.

Transparent structures.

Professional management.

Clear accountability.

Investor confidence.

**Because investors do not invest only in assets.**

**They invest in systems.**

**They invest in trust.**

**They invest in the ability of a country to deliver.**

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## **The Role of the Global Africa Investment Summit**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is where platforms such as the **Global Africa Investment Summit** can play an important role.

Its purpose is not simply to bring governments and investors together.

**Its purpose is to help transform national priorities into investment-ready opportunities.**

Across Africa, many countries possess valuable resources and strategic opportunities.

But converting those opportunities into successful investments requires more than assets.

It requires:

Project preparation.

Technical expertise.

Financial structuring.

Risk assessment.

Governance frameworks.

Investor engagement.

The **Global Africa Investment Summit** provides a platform where governments can present development priorities, investors can identify opportunities, and partnerships can be built around shared objectives.

Its value lies in helping transform:

Ideas into projects.

Projects into investments.

Investments into sustainable development outcomes.

**For Mozambique, the objective is not simply to attract capital.**

**It is to build partnerships that combine capital, technology, expertise, and global networks.**

This is increasingly important as the world seeks reliable energy partners, resilient supply chains, critical minerals, and new centers of industrial growth.

**Mozambique has the assets.**

**The opportunity is to create the structures that allow those assets to generate lasting national value.**

**Because the future of investment is not only about financing projects.**

**It is about building partnerships that create shared prosperity.**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Mozambique should not be viewed only as a destination for investment.**

**It should be viewed as a partner in creating value.**

A successful energy investment is not measured only by production volumes.

It is measured by:

The engineers trained.

The businesses created.

The industries developed.

The opportunities generated.

A successful agricultural investment is not measured only by output.

It is measured by:

Farmers connected to markets.

Rural enterprises strengthened.

Families experiencing improved livelihoods.

A successful infrastructure investment is not measured only by kilometers built.

It is measured by:

Communities connected.

Businesses enabled.

Economic activity created.

This is the standard of partnership Mozambique should pursue:

Strategic.

Transparent.

Long-term.

Transformational.

Because investment is most powerful when it becomes a force for national development.

## **FINAL CONCLUSIONS**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When these **five pillars come together**, the pathway to transformation becomes clear.

- **Competitive industries create economic opportunity.**
- **Human capital creates capability.**
- **Regional connectivity creates access.**
- **Resilient institutions create confidence.**
- **Strategic partnerships create scale.**

Together, these pillars form the foundation of sustainable prosperity.

This is how Mozambique moves from potential to progress.

Not through one sector alone.

Not through one investment alone.

Not through one generation alone.

But through a national transformation built over time.

A transformation where resources become productive capacity.

Where infrastructure becomes connectivity.

Where investment becomes employment.

Where innovation becomes competitiveness.

Where economic growth becomes improved quality of life.

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mozambique stands at a defining moment.

The country possesses many of the foundations required for transformation:

A strategic location.

Significant natural resources.

A young population.

Agricultural potential.

Regional importance.

And a people whose resilience has carried the nation through decades of change.

**But opportunity must be converted into action.**

**The nations that succeed are not always those with the greatest resources.**

**They are those that build the strongest systems around those resources.**

They build industries.

They develop skills.

They create trusted institutions.

They attract productive investment.

**They ensure that growth becomes inclusive.**

**This is the opportunity before Mozambique.**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**The ultimate purpose of development is human progress.**

Economic indicators matter.

Investment flows matter.

Infrastructure matters.

But their true value is measured in the lives they improve.

The young Mozambican seeking education and opportunity.

The entrepreneur seeking to build a business.

The farmer seeking access to markets.

The worker seeking a better future for their family.

The community seeking reliable services and greater opportunity.

These are the reasons development matters.

**A successful Mozambique will not only be measured by the size of its economy.**

**It will be measured by:**

**The quality of its education.**

**The strength of its healthcare.**

**The opportunities available to its youth.**

**The productivity of its businesses.**

**The resilience of its communities.**

**The confidence of its citizens.**

**Because prosperity exists to improve human lives.**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mozambique's opportunity comes at a time of profound global transformation.

Energy systems are changing.

Supply chains are being reshaped.

Critical minerals are becoming increasingly important.

Technology is creating new economic possibilities.

Capital is seeking countries with strong fundamentals and long-term vision.

Mozambique has the opportunity to participate in this new global landscape.

**But success will depend on continued commitment to the five pillars:**

- **Building competitive industries.**
- **Building human capital.**
- **Building regional connectivity.**
- **Building resilient institutions.**
- **Building strategic partnerships.**

These are the foundations upon which sustainable prosperity is created.

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The measure of Mozambique's success will not only be the investments attracted.

It will be the transformation created.

**Future generations will ask:**

**Did our resources create opportunity?**

**Did our investments create jobs?**

**Did our industries create capability?**

**Did our institutions create confidence?**

**Did our development improve the lives of citizens?**

That is the true measure of prosperity.

**Because prosperity is not defined only by what a nation possesses.**

**It is defined by what a nation builds.**

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His Excellency the President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The journey ahead will require leadership.

It will require partnership.

It will require investment.

It will require innovation.

It will require patience and determination.

**Transformation does not happen overnight.**

**It is built through decisions made today.**

**Through institutions strengthened tomorrow.**

**Through opportunities created for future generations.**

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Every successful nation reaches moments when it must decide whether to remain defined by potential or transform potential into achievement.

Mozambique has reached such a moment.

**A moment when its resources can become industries.**

**A moment when its young population can become its greatest economic advantage.**

**A moment when investment can become lasting prosperity.**

**A moment when Mozambique can strengthen its role not only as a participant in Africa's future, but as a contributor to shaping that future.**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Let us therefore build.**

**Let us build not only projects, but possibilities.**

**Not only infrastructure, but opportunity.**

**Not only economic growth, but a better future for every Mozambican.**

Let us build an economy that is:

Competitive.

Inclusive.

Resilient.

Innovative.

Confident.

**An economy where natural wealth becomes productive wealth.**

**An economy where growth creates opportunity.**

**An economy where every citizen has the chance to contribute to and benefit from national progress.**

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**The future of Mozambique will not simply arrive.**

**It will be created.**

Built by the vision of its leaders.

Built by the ambition of its entrepreneurs.

Built by the energy of its young people.

Built by the commitment of investors and partners.

Built by the resilience of its communities.

Built by the determination of the Mozambican people.

**Because nations are not transformed by what they discover.**

**They are transformed by what they develop.**

**They are not remembered only for the resources beneath their soil.**

**They are remembered for the opportunities they create above it.**

**They are not defined by the challenges they face.**

**They are defined by the courage, wisdom, and determination with which they overcome them.**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mozambique's moment has arrived.

**A moment to transform potential into progress.**

**A moment to transform resources into opportunity.**

**A moment to transform investment into prosperity.**

**So let us build — not only projects, but possibilities.**

**Not only infrastructure, but opportunity.**

**Not only economic growth, but a better future.**

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**Because prosperity is not inherited.**

**Prosperity is built.**

Built through vision.

Built through partnership.

Built through investment.

Built through resilience.

Built through the determination of a nation committed to its future.

**The future of Mozambique will not be a future discovered.**

**It will be a future created.**

**A future built by Mozambique.**

**A future built with Africa.**

**A future built with the world.**

**A future built together!**

Thank you. **Muito Obrigado!**

May God bless the Republic of Mozambique.

And may God bless its people.