



Escola Central



Maputo Office

Policy Forum on:

**“The Role of Ruling Parties in Promoting a Sustainable Economic Development Mode -
Thinking Beyond GDP”**

Maputo, May 28-29, 2014

The FRELIMO Party School and Friedrich Ebert Foundation Mozambique have the honour to invite you to a Policy Forum for representatives of ruling political parties in Southern Africa, **on 28th and 29th May** in Maputo. The conference will focus this year on **The Role of Ruling Parties in Promoting a Sustainable Economic Development Mode - Thinking Beyond GDP**. It shall aim at discussing whether the current GDP-centered growth model fosters economic development beneficial to the majority of Southern Africa’s population.

The main objective of the Policy Forum, which follows previous annual conferences of the FRELIMO Central Party School and Friedrich Ebert Foundation, is to share experiences among party leaders and selected experts from Southern African countries and thereby contribute to democratic policy development in the region.

The forum will apply a closed format (Chatham House Rule) and bring together a maximum of 30 participants. Friedrich Ebert Foundation will cover flight tickets and accommodation in Mozambique.

Background: Political Parties in Southern Africa are confronted with a rapidly changing globalised economic environment that changes the social and political reality of Southern Africans. Economic changes, however, need adequate political response. Political advisory by the academia is crucial to develop adequate policies at various levels.

Economic prospects for Southern Africa have recently become part of a new ‘Africa Rising’ narrative permeating Western financial magazines, and picked up by a sizeable number of African commentators and analysts. According to this perspective, the time of Afro-pessimism is over. From “the lost continent” Africa

has turned itself into the “last frontier of the world economy”. Endowed with vast quantities of highly demanded natural resources, Africa successfully pursued its integration into the international trade networks. Consistently high growth rates will eventually contribute to better development prospects, including more jobs, higher incomes, the rise of a middle class and more accountable governments. While the changing image of Africa in the world is certainly a positive development, it remains questionable whether it adequately depicts reality. Does the majority of Africans benefit from the commodity-based export boom? Have deep-seated, socio-economic and political challenges been overcome lately? Or isn't the renewed scramble for Africa's resources rather exacerbating existing fault lines, increasing inequality and the likelihood of social and political conflict?

The aim is to come up with a long-term sustainable development model that benefits the majority of Southern African populations. It is the role of ruling parties to debate these issues as they are the most important and crucial political players in the region.

Conference Programme: Based on panel discussions the policy forum aims at sharing experiences of regional academic experts and the ruling parties from Angola (MPLA), Botswana (BDP), Malawi (People's Party), Mozambique (FRELIMO), Namibia (SWAPO), South Africa (ANC), Tanzania (CCM), Zambia (PF) and Zimbabwe (ZANU-PF). Party Representatives and scientific experts are asked to present their experiences and viewpoints.

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Programme (draft)

Tuesday 27th May 2014

Arrival of participants

19.30 h **Welcome Dinner at the Hotel Avenida**

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

09.00 h **Opening**

Introduction and Opening Remarks:

Eliseu Machava, Secretary General, FRELIMO

Arlindo Chilundo, Vice-Minister of Education and Director of FRELIMO Central Party School

Katharina Hofmann, Resident Representative, FES-Mozambique

09.30 h **Day 1: Economic Development in the region: State of the academic discourse**

Panel 1: “Africa Rising”: Image and Reality.

The first panel should give an introduction into the academic debate on the “Africa rising” discourse. It aims at clarifying the shortcomings of this discourse and introduces the critique of GDP-centrism. It should thus set the theoretical framework for the following two days.

Guiding questions: *What are the arguments of the financial world and what do they advise governments to do? What are the sustainable development/post-GDP theories about and where do they see room for enhancing the debate as well as political decision making?*

Input 1: Lorenzo Fioramonti, University of Pretoria (tbc)

Input 2: Patrick Bond, University of KwaZulu-Natal (tbc)

10.30 h Coffee break

11.00 h Discussion

- 11.45 h** **2 Comments on Panel 1: (Raising questions to researchers and commenting the topic from the perspective of the ruling parties and their electorate)**
- Comment 1: N.N. Party Representatives**
- Comment 2: N.N. Party Representative**
- 12.30 h** **Lunch Break**
- 14.00 h** **Panel 2: Strategies of Economic Development in Southern Africa**
- The second panel will focus on the economic situation of the region.*
- Guiding Questions:** *Which are the sectors that produce high levels of growth? What are governmental strategies to attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs)? What are strategies to enhance national economies and job creation, especially for the young generation?*
- Input 1: Antonio Franco**, University Eduardo Mondlane and USAID, Mozambique: “Transform non- renewable resources into economic and social growth” **(tbc)**
- Input 2: Robert Kappel**, Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) Hamburg, Germany: „Africa neither hopeless nor rising“**(tbc)**
- 15.00 h** Discussion
- 15.45 h** Coffee break
- 16.00 h** 2 Comments from Researchers
- 17.00 h** **End of Day One**

Thursday, May 29, 2014

09.00 h **Wrap up of day one: Phanel Kaapama, University of Namibia (tbc)**

09.30 h **Day 2: Spaces and Political Options to enhance sustainable economic development**

Panel 1: Resource Management and Economic Diversification

***Guiding Questions:** What are good examples of resource management and redistribution? How can ruling parties avoid the resource curse? What are the obstacles to sustainable economic development? How can a self-sustained growth model be implemented? How can Youth be integrated and enabled to enhance sustainable development?*

Input 1: David Sebudubudu, University of Botswana (tbc)

Input 2: Imraan Buccus, University of KwaZulu-Natal: “Empowering the Youth through Education” (tbc)

10.30 h Coffee Break

11.00 h Discussion

12.30 h **Lunch Break**

14.00 h **Panel 2: Redistribution of wealth as an economic and social policy strategy?**

***Guiding questions:** To what extent do social transfers contribute to poverty reduction and wealth distribution? How can social transfers ensure equity and inclusivity? How can small and medium enterprises on the local level be supported to enhance the distribution of wealth and create jobs?*

Input 1: Prof. Neo Simutanyi: “Social Security Systems as incentives for economic participation” (tbc)

Input 2: Salim Valá, Ministry for Planification and Development, and Vasco Nhabinde, Mozambique: “The project of 7 Million – a case study on micro economic investments” (tbc)

15.00 h Discussion

16.00 h Coffee break

16.30 h Wrap up

17.00 h **End of Day Two**

Friday, May 30, 2014

Departure of participants