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RURAL HOUSING POLICY OF MOZAMBIQUE

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I n t r o d u c t o r y n o t e s

Mozambique became an independent republic on 25th June 1975.

The liberation movement Frelimo, which controlled large parts of the northern and western provinces of the country during the later years of the colonial period, participated in the interim government since September 1974, and is the ruling party since June 1975.

Development of the rural areas, where 90% of the population of 9 million are living, has a high priority in the political ideology of Frelimo. In September 1975 the outlines of the future rural development policy were made public during the National Agricultural Conference which was held at the town of Beira.

The Minister of Public Works and Housing explained the government's plans to concentrate the, at present mainly dispersed, rural population in communal villages. In his policy statement not only the principles of the government policy were mentioned, but the layout of the new villages were given in detail.

This paper contains a translation of the integral text of the Minister's speech, which is given without comments from the HRDU.

Based on the figures contained in the clauses dealing with the layout of the villages, a number of diagrams have been drawn up by the HRDU. These diagrams are added to the text as illustrations.

They represent:

- Diagram A - Layout of group of 10 family house plots which forms the basic element of the neighbourhood.
- Diagram B - Ditto, with alternative arrangement of access streets and lanes, to avoid speeding of traffic.
- Diagram C - Layout of neighbourhood containing 250 family house plots.
- Diagram D - Layout of minimum size village comprising 2 neighbourhoods (500 family house plots).
- Diagram E - Layout of optimum size village comprising 5 to 6 neighbourhoods (1250 to 1500 family house plots).

RURAL HOUSING POLICY OF MOZAMBIQUE

Text of the speech of the Minister of Public Works and Housing, Julio Carrilho
at the National Agricultural Conference at Beira,
23.09.1975

I n t r o d u c t i o n

Organising a Communal Village is not an easy task. It requires that each one of us contributes with his ideas, his experience, his criticism, so that we arrive at the best manner to do it.

What is a Communal Village? It is not a simple combination of shambas and even less a group of houses near each other.

A Communal Village is a superior organised force of a group of families (500 to 1000) in a determined locality chosen in such a way as to provide for these families a "complete life".

In other words, when we think of building a Communal Village, we know that we are going to organise ourselves in the location in such a way that we can satisfy on the spot all the requirements of the life we desire, that is collective life.

Therefore, in the chosen location:

- a) we shall create the conditions to produce the necessary food and through production we shall obtain other necessary things - for this purpose we shall have shambas, cattle when possible, and we shall organise fishing when the conditions allow it;
- b) we shall create in the location conditions for the realisation of political activities in order to consolidate our unity in the line of orientation of Frelimo, thus establishing a solid base of the people's power - therefore we shall have political centres for meetings and political work;
- c) we shall create the conditions so that we can improve and diversify our foodstuffs - therefore

we shall always have a vegetable garden and fruit trees and we can have animals which give us meat, milk and eggs (for food), skins, hooves, and horns which will serve us for the fabrication of implements and tools in the artisanal centre;

- d) we shall create the conditions to allow us to learn to read and to write, and to increase our knowledge so that we can produce all the time more and better - for this we shall have schools;
- e) we shall create the conditions so that the parents can go to work knowing that the children are not left abandoned in the houses - therefore we shall have creches/kindergartens;
- f) we shall create the conditions to treat sick persons - therefore we shall have health centres or hospitals;
- g) we shall create the conditions so that we can easily move, with or without the products of our work, from one place in the village to another and from one village to another - therefore we shall have streets to link the different parts of the village, lined with trees (preferably fruit trees) which will protect us from the sun and the wind, and we shall open up roads to other villages, we shall also prepare a place where lorries can load and unload, and we can even prepare a small landing field for any emergency;
- h) we shall create conditions so that together we can develop our Mozambique personality, discuss and exchange experiences, and develop our body - therefore we shall have cultural centres, meeting places, gymnastics halls and sports fields;
- i) we shall create conditions for the fabrication of our work instruments whenever possible, and to repair the tractor, the water pumps, the lorry when we have one - therefore we shall have an artisanal centre, and our workshops and stores for machines and instruments;