



MINISTER
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The Most Reverend, Archbishop Makgoba

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14 November 2020, in which you raised concerns of the Bishops and the people of Mozambique about the current security situation in Cabo Delgado.

The situation in Northern Mozambique is of great concern to South Africa, both as a neighbouring country and a country with which we share good relations. Indeed, South Africa and Mozambique enjoy cordial and strong relations, underpinned by strong historical and political bonds.

South Africa remains deeply concerned about the escalation of the attacks in Cabo Delgado, since October 2017. The attacks have led to an increase in the number of internally displaced persons, as well as in the deepening humanitarian crisis. Since the beginning of 2020, the attacks have been getting more violent and with a wider geographical spread, as reported by various sources.

South Africa remains committed to regional peace and stability and, in this regard, bilateral engagements between the two countries are ongoing to seek lasting solutions to the situation. In terms of the humanitarian situation, South Africa is partnering with UN Agencies in rolling out assistance with food, for the internally displaced persons, under the UN Rapid Response Plan (May-December 2020) for Cabo Delgado. In this regard, South Africa has pledged ZAR 3 million. You may recall that, at the time, we also extended a hand of assistance to Mozambique when that country was hit by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth.

Further to the above, it is important to note that the current crisis in Cabo Delgado poses a risk of a possible regional spillover into South Africa and other neighbouring countries and, therefore, it must be treated with the urgency that it deserves. South Africa has commended Mozambique for bringing the crisis to the attention of the region, through the SADC Organ Troika meeting that was held in Zimbabwe on 19 May 2020. This will allow for a consolidated regional approach in dealing with the matter, given the endorsement by the 40th SADC Summit, of 17 August 2020, to support Mozambique, which was welcomed by South Africa.

Compounding the already complex situation in Cabo Delgado, the Province is also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. South Africa continues to collaborate with the

Government of Mozambique to fight the pandemic. In this regard, South Africa has also pledged the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to that country.

Allow me to conclude by commending the work of the Church in contributing to the well being of the people of Mozambique and for all efforts and initiatives aimed at changing lives for the better. South Africa welcomes all contributions from all spheres of society, such as faith based organisations and civil society organisations, that will bring peace and stability in the affected areas of Mozambique. In this regard, South Africa will continue in her endeavours to forster relations and lobby for partnerships in the region and beyond in finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Cabo Delgado, in all its manifestations.

Please accept, Your Grace, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dr GNM Pandor, MP

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

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