

**Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Excellencies;**

**Chairman of the Empresa Portos e Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique;**

**Representative of the Board of MPDC;**

**Chief Executive Officer of MPDC;  
Indian Ocean Port Directors and Managers;**

**Distinct Guests;**

**Ladies,**

**Gentlemen;**

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique and on my own behalf, to present a warm and helpful welcome at the ninth edition of the Conference Indian Ocean Ports and Logistics.

We address a special greeting to the promoters of this initiative, for choosing the Maputo City to host this event, hoping to enjoy the hospitality that characterizes the Mozambican people; our rich cuisine; culture and other attractions that this beautiful Indian pearl offers.

This event occurs at a time when the country is facing the drama caused by the floods in central and northern regions of the country. To the victims of this misfortune goes our comfort and appeal for solidarity with these our compatriots.

Distinguished Guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Ports are a symbol of progress and opportunities. In the Indian Ocean, and particularly in Mozambique, our ports are no exception. Its prime location, close to the commercial shipping routes to major international markets, makes them a gateway and a driver for local economies, national and regional development corridors they serve.

The 9th Conference Indian Ocean Ports and Logistics, held in Mozambique for the second time, is itself indicative of the strategic importance of our ports in the Regional and International logistics chain, and for us, an important opportunity for sharing a strategic vision for the exploration of our potential.

With use of public - private partnerships, Mozambique is successfully implementing a vast expansion and modernization program of the main Mozambican ports, including the Ports of Maputo, Beira and Nacala, the latter with a large natural potential to be a port of deep water that can receive deep draft ships.

At this time, we are pleased to see that the results of investments in major ports are very encouraging, as we record cargo handling record levels, galvanizing, thus the national economy and neighboring users of these facilities - structures, in addition to add value through the direct benefits generated through the chain of support services, tax revenue, among others.

Distinguished Guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Maputo hosts the 9th Indian Ocean Ports and Logistics Conference at a time when Mozambique has been gaining a prominent role in the world economy due to recent discoveries of mineral resources reserves, particularly coal and natural gas, at Moatize and Basin of Rovuma, imposing an extraordinary logistics capacity. I should highlight the strategic importance of the Ports of Beira, Nacala - a - Velha, Pemba and Palma, will play in the context of natural resources exploration.

Thus, it is our expectation that managers here today look at this event as a sovereign opportunity to expose the potential of our country and to attract foreign investment, in addition to the exchange of experiences and enrich our role as actors of national and regional development.

This is also a unique opportunity to discuss critical current and future issues related to the ports of the Indian Ocean, the processes for improving their competitiveness, intermodal transport and logistics solutions in search of regional development corridors, including international maritime flows.

We hope that the topics to be discussed here are fruitful for the various actors involved in the global supply chain, port, rail operators, road, agents and shipping lines, among others.

We believe that the real economic and social benefits we all seek can only be achieved if we have the ability to align IT investments and priorities of all stakeholders, always having the vision of our role in boosting the economy of our country and improvement of life of our population.

Finally, we reiterate the commitment of the Government in the pursuit of ongoing actions to revive national ports, so that they fully comply with the noble role of boosting our economy. We make votes for participants to deliver the discussions that will take place, always with a view of sharing strategies for the development of the Indian Ocean ports.

With these words, I declare open the 9th edition of the Indian Ocean Ports and Logistics Conference and Exhibition.

For your attention, THANK YOU!