

## Major points in the new constitution include:

- The state is now named 'Republic of Mozambique', omitting the word 'People's';
- The national flag remains the same; the country's emblem with hoe and Kalashnikov rifle crossed above a five pointed star remains unchanged;
- Mozambique is a secular state;
- All religious denominations are equal under the law;
- Mozambican nationality can be obtained by birth and by naturalisation, which includes marriage of foreign women to Mozambican men but not the reverse; the specific requirements are contained in 16 articles. Dual nationality is ruled out. Naturalised citizens may not pursue careers in the diplomatic service or the armed forces;
- Mozambique now will have a multi-party political system. The five articles concerned were adopted unanimously. Political parties are an expression of pluralism and are 'a fundamental instrument for the democratic participation of citizens in the governing of the country'.

All political parties must be national in scope (thus ruling regional or secessionist parties unconstitutional);

- Elections will be held periodically, by universal suffrage and by secret ballot, under a majority vote system and not one of proportional representation;
- An explicit reference in the draft describing the Mozambican economic order as one based on a 'market economy' was voted against. The constitution now states that the economy consists of four complementary property regimes - state ownership, private property, joint ventures and cooperatives.
- The new constitution maintains all land as state property; all citizens have the right to use land, with the state granting titles for that. In the original draft presented by Frelimo the state could sell land to individuals and collective bodies, but popular pressure during the nationwide debate caused this clause to be withdrawn;
- All citizens are equal before the law;
- The death penalty has been abolished; an attempt to include a ban on abortion failed;
- There exists freedom of expression and of the press, as well as the right to information; censorship is outlawed. The original draft did not mention press freedom, which provoked a strong response from media workers and a petition to the President.
- All citizens have the right to live in a balanced environment, and the duty to defend it;
- Workers have the right to strike; in certain essential services it shall be restricted;
- The new constitution brings separation of powers: the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the state are now distinct from each other; previously the principle of unity of powers held in Mozambique;
- The name of the parliament will change from 'People's Assembly' to 'Assembly of the Republic'.