

## **Political Commissar Visits Troops in Gaza**

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[Text] Major General Eduardo da Silva Nihia, the national political commissar of the Mozambican Armed Forces, FPLM, paid a 5-day visit to Gaza Province to acquaint himself with the political and military situation and to assess the operation of political party organs in the light of the decisions made last month at a meeting of political commissars from military units based in the south of the country.

The national political commissar said: We have come to examine the operation of political party organs within the framework of the preparations for the 5th Frelimo Party Congress. He then added that one should not wait for the report, because if one relies on reports one misses many things and one's decisions have no effect at the lowest levels.

In Gaza Province, Maj Gen Eduardo da Silva Nihia held meetings with officers, sergeants, and soldiers stationed in the districts of Chokwe, Massingir, Mapai, and Chibuto. He also held a meeting with the provincial military command, in which they assessed the current political and military situation. In the meeting, Gaza's Provincial political commissar announced that during the first 3 months of this year, the Mozambican Armed Forces stationed in the province killed 305 armed bandits and captured 28 others along with 16 AKM light weapons. According to that official, during the same period our forces also freed 249 citizens who were under the control of the bandits.

Maj Gen Eduardo Nihia, also visited Maqueze, about 90 km from Chibuto, where he met with the local population. he was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Agostinho Mahanjane, the provincial military commissar. In Maqueze, the national political commissar was able to evaluate relations between the army and the people. Gen Nihia appealed to the population in Maqueze to be more united and vigilant in the fight against the armed bandits. At the end of the meeting with the people of Maqueze, Gen Nihia was presented with a weapon which had been captured from the armed bandits, and which symbolizes the heroism and patriotism of the residents of Maqueze.

In all the military units he visited, the FPLM national political commissar said that his intention was to observe first hand, rather than through reports, how party activities are being carried out within the Armed Forces. As part of the preparations for the 5th Frelimo Party Congress, all officers, sergeants and soldiers are called upon to participate through their party cells and committees.

Maj Gen Eduardo da Silva Nihia said the greatest concern is the effective functioning of the party within the Armed Forces. Our officers must be party members, so that they can teach the troops their political and patriotic duty.

Maj Gen Nihia explained to the officers, sergeants, and soldiers in Gaza Province that without the party structures, we would not be able to identify our main enemy. he added that an officer must be a party member, because that means he is a man of the vanguard who will encourage us in the difficult moments, teach us, fight indiscipline, and instill patriotism in a soldier to kill the murderers of the people.