

Brazil, Maputo condemn SA racist policies

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THE presidents of Brazil and Mozambique, Cde Jose Sarney and Cde Joaquim Chissano, released a joint statement yesterday condemning racist regime of South Africa, calling it "the primary cause of the state of tension that rules in Southern Africa".

The communique states the position of the two countries in denouncing "all types of acts of violence perpetrated by the South African government".

The two presidents also condemned the invasion of Angola by the South African army, the prohibition by Pretoria government of democratic organisation that were carrying out legal, open and peaceful opposition to the apartheid system, and the death sentence given to six South African prisoners in Sharpeville.

Aggression against Mozambique were also assailed by the two leaders. The statement said the incursions violate the Nkomati Agreement that South Africa signed in 1984 with Mozambique, and the Lusaka Agreement signed in 1985 with Angola. South Africa agreed that it would cease all hostilities against the two countries in the accords.

Cde Sarney and Cde Chissano also vowed their unconditional support of the independence of Namibia — occupied illegally by South Africa. The two expressed their solidarity with the Namibian people, represented by Swapo, which they said is in a just cause for the recognition of its undeniable right of self-determination.

On bilateral relations, Cde Sarney and Cde Chissano said there is much room for increasing co-operation, especially in the area of exploration of Mozambique coal through studies by Brazilian companies. Other areas, they said, will be set for co-operation by the bilateral commission in the course of the year.

Cde Chissano arrived here on Friday afternoon for a one-day state visit. He returned to Africa yesterday afternoon. —Ziana-Xinhua.