

Cooperation Minister Leaves on European Tour

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[Text] Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso left Maputo yesterday on a trip that will take him to Portugal, France, and the FRG. This senior Mozambican official will hold talks with the authorities of those countries on bilateral cooperation.

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[Begin recording] [Veloso] I am going to Lisbon, Portugal on a 1- or 2-day visit. It will be a quick visit in which I hope to assess our joint cooperation. I will then go to France and the FRG with the same aims: to discuss cooperation, bilateral relations, and the general situation.

[Unidentified reporter] What officials do you hope to meet?

[Veloso] I will meet with the ministers of cooperation and will contact their ministries of foreign affairs and members of their governments. These are the people I will meet. I will also meet officials in the various cooperation sectors and in other areas. Portugal has a state secretariat for cooperation that works in tandem with the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There is a separate cooperation ministry in France. Mozambique currently works through the French Cooperation Ministry. [sentence as heard] The FRG also has a cooperation ministry. Thus, we will be working with those ministers. However, I always try to contact other sectors, such as the ministries of foreign affairs and other departments.

When we discuss cooperation we also take the opportunity to discuss southern Africa's problems. These are problems that can negatively or positively affect cooperation. We have regional problem and SADCC's problems, which is a regional organization of great interest to France, Portugal, and the FRG. It is important to note that the circumstances of the situation influence cooperation, even though they are not principal factors. [end recording]