



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

RMDDH



Monday, March 9, 2026 | Year VI, NO. 100 | President: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga | English

Shrinking civic space and declining resources

- Within the framework of the National Summit of Human Rights Defenders, organized by the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) on 9 December 2025 in the City of Maputo, Dr. Paula Monjane delivered a compelling analysis of the contemporary dynamics affecting civic space in Mozambique.



Held under the theme “**Resilience in Times of Adversity: Celebrating Human Rights Defenders,**” the Summit provided a platform for critical reflection on the structural challenges facing civil society.

In her intervention, Dr. Monjane emphasized that the control of civic space is not a recent phenomenon but a persistent historical pattern that evolves in form over time. She argued that in the current context, civic space is often constrained through legislation that appears technical in nature but is substantively restrictive, gradually limiting freedoms of association, expression, and mobilization.

She also highlighted the impact of declining international funding for human rights and democratic governance, situating it within a broader global shift in development priorities and geopoliti-

cal realignments. According to the speaker, these funding cuts have direct consequences: weakening civil society organizations, dismantling support structures, reducing protection mechanisms, and increasing the vulnerability of defenders.

Dr. Monjane stressed that the simultaneous contraction of financial resources and political space creates a particularly adverse environment for active citizenship. Nonetheless, she argued that civil society’s response must go beyond reactive resistance. It requires strategic reinvention, institutional resilience, and structural transformation to sustain human rights defense even in restrictive contexts.

Her intervention reaffirmed that a vibrant civic space is indispensable for democratic consolidation and the effective protection of fundamental freedoms.

Dr. Monjane stressed that the simultaneous contraction of financial resources and political space creates a particularly adverse environment for active citizenship. Nonetheless, she argued that civil society’s response must go beyond reactive resistance. It requires strategic reinvention, institutional resilience, and structural transformation to sustain human rights defense even in restrictive contexts.



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

RMDDH

Almejamos um país livre e seguro para os Defensores dos Direitos Humanos, um ambiente favorável ao desenvolvimento das comunidades e ao envolvimento da juventude como potenciais Defensores dos Direitos Humanos.

We aspire to a nation where Human Rights defenders can operate freely and securely, fostering community development and empowering youth to become effective advocates for Human Rights.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION:

Property: RMDDH
President: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: André Mulungo
Author: RMDDH
Layout: RMDDH

FINANCING PARTNERS



**SUOMI
FINLAND**

Rua Dar-Es-Salaam, número 279, Bairro Sommerschild, Maputo -Moçambique **Contacto** +258 857645056
 Email : info@redemoz-defensoresdireitoshumanos.org @RMDDH_Moz rmdmh_moz
 Facebook:@RMDDHMoz redemoz-defensoresdireitoshumanos.org/ **LinkedIn**: rmddh