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Civil society announces mobilization against land privatization

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Defesa dos recursos naturais

More than 30 civil society organizations decided to join forces to defend the land and natural resources. The organizations, including peasant movements, will launch later this year a National Campaign against privatization of land. Also, included in the discussion is the ProSavana Project.

This information was unveiled yesterday, on Monday, at a press conference promoted by the League of Human Rights, Women's Forum, Mozambique's National Peasants' Union, Environmental Justice and the Centre for Social Studies, which had representatives of their Organizations.

This decision is the result of discussions and deep reflections within the Popular University of Social Movements Workshop.

"After much reflection, we concluded that the land issue is a concern to all sectors of society ... the ProSavana, a millionaire agro-business Program has been identified by civil society as an issue of common agenda," said Grace Sambo, of the Women Forum.

Mozambique's National Peasants Union joins this struggle two months after having addressed a letter to President Armando Guebuza; the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff; and the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, demonstrating their concern regarding the implementation of ProSavana, on which they have not had a response since that time.

According to Peasants' representative, the goal of this campaign is to show the government that civil society is united in this struggle for justice and for equal sharing of land.

ProSavana is the main concern of this class, which believes that the programme will bring irreversible negative impact on their families, such as emergence of landless families and communities in Mozambique as a result of the land expropriation processes and consequent resettlements; frequent upheavals and socio-environmental conflicts in communities throughout the Nacala Development Corridor and the increase and deepening of poverty in families of rural communities and the subsequent reduction of survival and existence alternatives.

*Unofficial translation. Source: <http://www.opais.co.mz/index.php/sociedade/45-sociedade/26475-sociedade-civil-anuncia-mobilizacao-contra-privatizacao-da-terra.html>