



AVANTE MOZAMBIQUE!

**First Annual International Cultural Tourism Festival
August 28 – September 10, 2006, Maputo**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS LAUNCH AVANTE MOZAMBIQUE! CELEBRATES FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL TOURISM FESTIVAL

Maputo, Mozambique, February 27, 2006 – Avante Mozambique, Lda, announces the launch of AVANTE MOZAMBIQUE! FESTIVAL, the country's First Annual Cultural Tourism Festival, scheduled to take place in Maputo, August 28 – September 10, 2006. The spectacular and historical two-week long event will celebrate the nation's peace, social harmony and international solidarity, and showcase the myriad cultural diversities of her superb tourist destinations.

AVANTE MOZAMBIQUE! FESTIVAL has the full support of Honorary Festival Patron President Armando Emilio Guebuza, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

“The mission of AVANTE MOZAMBIQUE! FESTIVAL is to celebrate, introduce and promote the rich cultural assets of Mozambique, encompassing vast, culturally diverse ethnic groupings in a multi-racial society with a legendary history of social cohesiveness, during a vibrant time in nation-building and unity.”



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“We will execute AVANTE MOZAMBIQUE! on a grand scale to position Mozambique in the minds of the attendees as a country with the passion and energy to be one of the new leaders among the nations of Africa.”

“We wish to inspire the entire country by recognition of the national heritage, thereby helping to stimulate positive energies towards continued success and prosperity. The country has emerged from most difficult times over the past several decades and is now poised for a bright future to deal courageously with the development challenges.”

“It is vital now to create positive perceptions worldwide about our country and Africa. By promoting deeper knowledge about our culture through the tourism market sector, we begin to position ourselves in the global world as an active player.”

“The Festival represents a critically needed investment in Mozambique’s path to development.”

The following highlights feature specialized programming to commemorate the first annual AVANTE MOZAMBIQUE! FESTIVAL:

- ❖ Memorable Gala Festival Opening
- ❖ International Performing Arts Concerts
- ❖ Tribute to Heroes and Champions Awards Ceremony
- ❖ Special Focus Festival Forum: “Technology, Innovation and Creativity”
- ❖ Celebration of the traditional arts and cultures of Mozambique’s 10 Provinces over 10 weekdays
- ❖ Performances by Mozambique’s contemporary artists
- ❖ Visual Arts Exhibitions and Artisans’ Crafts Fair
- ❖ “CineMozambique” Film Festival and Workshops
- ❖ Seminar: “The Literary History of Mozambique” by Prof. F. Abiola Irele, Harvard University, in collaboration with UNESCO’s Culture Sector.
- ❖ Seminar “The History of Mozambique in the U.S. and the Americas” by Prof. C. Daniel Dawson, New York University, in collaboration with UNESCO’s Culture Sector



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- ❖ Competitive Popular Sports Events
- ❖ Cultural Tourism Packages
- ❖ Business Investment Opportunities Forum

We will announce further details about these Festival special events over the next few months.

About Avante Mozambique, Lda:

Avante Mozambique, Lda, the Festival organizing company, is a privately held company whose mission is non-profit and philanthropic in principle.

The Festival company has a distinguished Board of Advisors who serve as the Festival Steering Committee. The members are: Festival Steering Committee Chair Dr. Egas Mussanhane, Mr. Antonio Malo, Dr. Leonardo Simao, Dr. Salomao Manhica, Rev. Aroo Litsure, Mr. Americo Magaia, and Mr. Renato Mateusse.

Festival Executive Director Ms. Evangeline Kim from the U.S. heads up the Technical Support Management Team with highly-acclaimed international producers, managers, and marketing and publicity specialists.

We are proud to have the Festival collaboration of UNESCO's Culture Sector.

We are also proud to have the endorsement of the Embassy of the United States of America, the High Commission of India, and the Embassy of Brazil at this time.

We are grateful to Deloitte & Touche who serve as Festival Auditor and to MGA who serve as Festival Law Firm.

We will acknowledge and announce the Festival Sponsors at another press conference.

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