



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

**Statement by Gamiliel Munguambe,  
Director of the National Demining Institute  
before the Standing Committee, on the agenda item: Victim  
Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration**

Chairperson,

At the outset, let me express my delegations gratitude for the opportunity given to us to share with you the information on the current situation of the Mine Victim Assistance Program in Mozambique, progress and needs.

Mine Victim Assistance is taking place within the overall coverage program of the disabled persons, even through specific issues are dealt with under mine action program.

In dealing with the needs of the disabled, the country counts with 60 physiotherapy services, 10 orthopedic centers, one of which opened by the National Red Cross and 10 transit centers

specifically designated to host those handicapped undergoing treatment.

When it comes to mine victims, the information is scarce and limited, partly, due to the very poor intervention that is channeled to this component of the mine action program.

We know, however that since the mine activities started in 1992, first under United Nations auspices, and later on, under my government's coordination, about 2.300 mine victims were registered. Of those, only 321 have benefited or are benefits from direct and indirect support of the sole organization working with mine victims, the Landmines Survivors Network.

This organization is working with mine victims in only one out of ten provinces and with the support of a single donor.

Taking into account that the country have ten provinces, it is not difficult to anticipate a series of problems when trying to ensure assistance to the remaining 2.000 victims already identified in Mozambique.

The current program of victim assistance covers areas such as physical rehabilitation, vocational training and provision of tools for mine victims to conduct their own business, as well as moral support between mine victims themselves.

Out of the 321 assisted mine victims, only 12 were declared as no longer in need of assistance as they were considered fully rehabilitated and able to conduct normal life. In our discussion with LSN we expressed a need to expand their activities to other provinces and work is currently under way towards that end.

We believe, however that if more financial support is ensured, more organizations would be in a position to work with this particular group of mine victims, such as the World Rehabilitation Fund, which has expressed vivid interest in working in this area of the program. Such support would be specially geared towards socio-economic reintegration, as well as ensure maintenance work and/or distribution of prosthesis that have attained their life span.

In addition, a number of national NGOs, including the Association of the disabled are willing to implement such type of projects.

We appeal to the donor community to channel their generous support in the attainment of this objective and very important component of the program in fulfillment of the Convention humanitarian goals.

Thank you Chairperson.

Geneva, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2004