

Maputo, February 16, 2024

**MOZAMBICAN SAXOPHONIST MOREIRA CHONGUIÇA
CHEVALEIR OF ARTS AND LETTERS OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC**

During a ceremony held on February 13, 2024 in the presence of numerous personalities in the gardens of the French Residence in Maputo, the Mozambican saxophonist Moreira Chonguiça was decorated with the insignia of *Chavalier* of Arts and Letters by Yann Pradeau, Ambassador of France to Mozambique. "As representatives of the French government and the French Ministry of Culture, we are delighted to recognise Moreira Chonguiça for his outstanding contributions to the realm of jazz music and for utilising his talents to showcase Mozambican culture on a global scale" said Ambassador Yann Pradeau.

Jazz saxophonist, author of eight albums, all award-winning, ethnomusicologist, composer, producer, influencer and philanthropist, Moreira Chonguiça is today one of the best representatives of innovative and original jazz in Africa.

An established and internationally recognized musician, Moreira Chonguiça has been able to promote Mozambican culture throughout the world.

He is also a committed artist who has put his talents at the service of numerous causes, in Mozambique and abroad, such as the promotion of education, the fight against AIDS, or even, for several years, development cultural in the province of Cabo Delgado.

Moreira Chonguiça is the latest Mozambican artist to be decorated by France with the Order of Arts and Letters, after, in particular, the painter, sculptor and poet Malangata Valente Ngwenha, the journalist-photographer Ricardo Rangel, the writer and journalist Mia Couto, singer and songwriter Elisa Domingas Jamisse (Mingas) and recently Quito Tembe, artistic director and founder of the Kinani international dance festival.

The official ceremony was followed by a major concert attended by around 200 personalities from the world of culture in Mozambique.

Upon receiving the decoration, Moreira commented "I feel deeply honoured and humbled by the recognition bestowed upon me by the French government through this decoration. Such acknowledgement serves to inspire African youth, demonstrating that making a positive contribution is indeed achievable"

About the Order of Arts and Letters

The Order of Arts and Letters was created in France in 1957. It is intended to "reward people who have distinguished themselves by their creations in the artistic

or literary field or by the contribution to the influence that they have made to the influence of Arts and Letters in France and around the world. It is awarded by the French Minister of Culture and rewards an artist for their entire career.

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