

MAPUTO: Banknotes bearing a portrait of the head of state may seem an unusual subject for political controversy but that's just what has happened in Mozambique, one of Africa's newest multi-party democracies.

The benign smile of President Joaquim Chissano on the new 10 000-metical note has angered one of the opposition parties which has emerged since parliament's approval of a pluralist constitution last November.

The National Convention Party (PCN) accuses Chissano of cashing in on the new money to promote his own image.