

Famine threatens Tete AED 2/11/84

Tete province in the northwest faces ^{p. 20} worsening famine if more international ⁻²¹ help in the form of food aid and transport is not provided soon, province governor Eduardo Arao warned in a 29 October interview with the Maputo daily Noticias. Food stocks are down to 13,000 tonnes of grain, he said, less than half the amount needed to feed the 135,000 drought victims in the south of the province for a month.

Farmers in the north of the province have produced a maize surplus this year, but transport shortages and Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) ambushes have made it difficult to distribute the grain. Most food aid is being brought 250 kilometres from Beira by trucks under military escort, and a round trip for a convoy carrying 350 tonnes of food takes 30 days. Arao added that the available trucks had a total capacity of only 712 tonnes and that their movement had been hit by a 70 per cent shortfall in fuel.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands' *DAF Trucks* is to supply 16 four-wheel-drive vehicles to distribute 20,000 tonnes of maize provided under Dutch food aid in the drought-hit Sofala and Manica provinces. Spares, tools and two years' mechanical assistance have also been provided in a Dutch government-financed contract worth DFl 2 million (\$584,000). Once the food haulage is complete the trucks will be used in settlement schemes in the two provinces.