

President's powers queried

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MEMBERS of the armed forces attending the military secondary school in the central Mozambican city of Beira have queried the powers granted to the president under the new draft of the Mozambican constitution.

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According to a report in the daily paper *Diario de Mocambique*, during debate on the constitution in the school, participants were concerned at the president's power to dissolve the country's parliament, the people's assembly, if it rejects the government's programme.

One speaker said the draft did not specify the exact circumstances under which the president could take such a drastic step.

Other speakers complained that, while the draft gives workers the right to belong to trade unions and to take strike action, soldiers had no such rights.

One article in the draft also guarantees workers' rights to "just payment, rest and holidays". One of the students noted that soldiers benefit from none of this protection. He called on the government "to take better note of the conditions to which soldiers are subjected".

Another participant, speaking on the section of the draft that deals with the independence of the judiciary, asked why so far the courts martial established to try members of the armed forces "are not putting any high-ranking officers on trial?"
— Ziana-AIM.