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Chissano has year to live

— report

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Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano is terminally ill with cancer, according to an unconfirmed report.

If the report is true it will have a major effect on political attitudes in the Frelimo government and on its relations with Pretoria.

Mr Chissano, who had a prostate gland operation in Cuba in November, has been given only about a year to live, according to the Johannesburg newsletter, *Southern Africa Special Report*. If Mr Chissano is indeed terminally ill, it would be a severe setback to South Africa's efforts to forge closer relations with Mozambique — efforts that had already been set back by President Botha's stroke.

At the historic meeting of the two presidents at Songo in Mozambique last year, Mr Chissano accepted an invitation from President Botha to visit South Africa.

The visit had unofficially been expected to take place this year but whether it will now take place at all is uncertain in view of President Chissano's reported illness.

Experts believe that in the event of Mr Chissano's vacating the presidency, his likely successor would be the present Minister of Transport Mr Armando Guebuza.

A veteran of the guerrilla war against Portugal, Mr Guebuza is one of the 10 members of the ruling Frelimo Party's politburo.

Under the country's constitution the leader of Frelimo is automatically president of Mozambique.