

## IMF blamed for Moz school riot

MAPUTO. — The Mozambique News Agency (AIM) blamed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday for education problems that led to a riot at the country's largest secondary school.

A riot broke out at the Josina Machel school in the capital Maputo on Wednesday as students attempting to enrol protested at what they said were attempts by some officials and teachers to extort money in exchange for enrolment documents.

The riot was the latest in a series of Mozambican education scandals, including the sale by teachers of exam questions in advance of the actual exams.

"Corruption in Mozambican schools is a direct result of budgetary policies imposed on Mozambique by the IMF in the name of structural adjustment," AIM said in a commentary on the Josina Machel affair.

"The IMF policies have forced the real wages of teachers and education officials into a spiral of decline. It is hardly sur-

prising that some of them try to make up for their falling living standards by extorting bribes from students," the agency added.

January is a holiday period so classes at Josina Machel have not been disrupted but, as a result of the disturbances, school offices which should be open have been closed since Wednesday.

"We opted for violence as the only way to end this black market in enrolment documents, and the insensitivity of the school management to this illicit practice," a student who requested anonymity told

reporters outside the school.

Normally the document costs 5 000 meticaïs (less than R3). On the black market allegedly organised by corrupt teachers, the price soars up to 400 000 meticaïs (R272).

Enrolment in Maputo secondary schools ended several days earlier than planned, allegedly because the schools ran out of places. — Sapa-Reuter.