

## Maputo sends official delegation to talk to Dhlakama

AN OFFICIAL Mozambican delegation was sent to Nairobi on Monday to talk to the rebel leadership there.

This fresh attempt to breathe life into the negotiations with the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR/Renamo) was announced by President Joaquim Chissano during a mass rally in the town of Gorongosa - the site of a government victory and the killing of the predecessor of rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama's in 1979. *SS 04(1) 20*

Chissano gave no details as to the composition of the delegation.

Kenyan and Zimbabwean presidents, Daniel arap Moi and Robert Mugabe, have acted as mediators in the conflict. They held two rounds of talks, both in Nairobi, in August and September.

Nairobi has also been the scene of meetings between MNR leaders, including Dhlakama, and Mozambican churchmen.

"I am happy to be here where bandit chief (Andre) Matsangaissa died", said Chissano.

"Dhlakama too, if he goes on massacring the people, shall not pass at Gorongosa".

The president said that

from June to September Mozambican and Zimbabwean forces had destroyed 26 MNR camps in Sofala. Of these, the most important was at Maringue, north of Gorongosa mountain, where Dhlakama had installed his internal headquarters.

Chissano praised the participation of the Zimbabwean army in the struggle. "Our brothers from Zimbabwe are always with us", he said. "They are with us on the battlefield, just as we were together in the liberation of our countries.

"We fought together with the Zimbabweans to free Mozambique. We fought

together to free Zimbabwe, and now we are fighting together against the bandit gangs".

Earlier, Chissano denounced the attempts by the rebels to divide the country by tribe and region, and stressed the need to strengthen national unity.

Speaking at a mass rally in Quelimane, capital of the central province of Zambezia, Chissano said that the popular debate around amendments to the Mozambican constitution, due to restart in November, would be extremely important.

He warned of the dangers of a multi-party system.