

Our victory is in sight, says Mandela to Mozambicans

MAPUTO: Nelson Mandela said yesterday the sun was setting on apartheid and victory for South Africa's disenfranchised black majority was in sight.

"The sun has begun to set on the evil system of apartheid," the African National Congress deputy president told cheering thousands at a rally in the Mozambican capital.

Mandela has been on a three-day visit to Maputo, the last stop of his six-week world tour. He is due to return to South Africa today, but may prolong his stay by one day.

"We can see the day dawning when black people will no longer be condemned to be servants to others, simply because they have white skins," said Mandela.

"We know that the moment is not far off when black and white people in South Africa will live together as people, as brothers and sisters."

Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano introduced Mandela and his wife

Winnie to the crowd, calling Mandela "a living hero".

Mandela spoke about solidarity between the ANC and Frelimo, the guerrilla movement which won Mozambique's independence from Portugal in 1975 and is now the ruling party.

Mandela praised Chissano's efforts to negotiate an end to the 15-year war between Mozambique and rightist rebels in Renamo, long backed by Pretoria as a counter to Mozambique's support for the ANC.

Mozambique's government and Renamo held their first direct peace talks in Rome last week, and have pledged to meet again.

South African president FW de Klerk says Pretoria

no longer supports the Mozambican rebels but evidence continues to emerge that right-wing groups in South Africa and the United States are linked to Renamo. — Sapa-Reuter



Mandela