

Frelimo to decide on multi-party politics

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MAPUTO. — Mozambique's leadership began meetings yesterday to decide whether to end the ruling Frelimo party's 15-year monopoly on power.

The 160-member central committee will be asked to ratify a politburo proposal to allow multi-party politics.

President Joaquim Chissano, opening the meeting, told the central committee to adapt to a new situation in Mozambique, Southern Africa and the world.

Party members should not allow "inertia or the comfort of routine to stand against transformations demanded by the ideals of peace, progress, well-being and democracy", he said.

Mr Chissano announced last Tuesday that Mozambique's supreme political body, the 12-member politburo, wanted a multi-party system.

The central committee is to meet until August 21 and a decision on multi-

party rules may not be made until late in the session.

Mr Chissano said the central committee would also hear reports about the 15-year war against Renamo rebels and diplomatic efforts to end it.

He said last Tuesday that if a multi-party system was approved and the rebels laid down arms and formed a political party, they could take part in general elections set for 1991. — Sapa-Reuter.