

# Mozambique peace talks set for <sup>SM</sup> April 8 <sup>910324</sup>

MAPUTO.

**THE** next round of peace talks between the Mozambican government and the Renamo bandits is scheduled to start in Rome on April 8, according to the Italian ambassador in Maputo, Manfredo di Camerana.

Mr di Camerana, who chairs the Joint Verification Commission (JVC), charged with monitoring implementation of the agreement reached in December between the government and Renamo on the Beira and Limpopo rail corridors, returned to Maputo on Friday after a fortnight of consultations in Rome with the Italian government and Catholic Church mediators in the peace process.

During this time, the mediators also met with the Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama.

Mr di Camerana told journalists on his return that the next round of talks, the sixth since direct negotiations between the government and Renamo started last July, would deal with matters already on the agenda, particularly with "political questions".

These should have been discussed at the fifth round, in January. But this round broke down after five days because Renamo refused to accept the report from the JVC which found it guilty of violating the December agreement on at least six occasions.

Mr di Camerana said that starting the talks on April 8 was conditional on completing the installation of a communications system in Malawi that will allow more rapid communications between the Renamo delegation in Rome, and bandit commanders inside Mozambique.

The Renamo leader has admitted ordering attacks on the Limpopo Corridor, the railway between Zimbabwe and the port of Maputo, in flagrant breach of the accord. The Renamo excuse for this behaviour is a claim that Zimbabwean forces have not all redeployed into the Beira and Limpopo corridors, as required under the agreement. — ZIANA-  
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