

# Chissano's hopes on peace talks

MAPUTO — The Mozambican government hopes that the current round of peace talks with MNR bandits in Rome will not only conclude the political part of the agenda, but will make a start on discussing military questions, President Joaquim Chissano said here yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the 12th Consultative Conference of Southern African Development Coordination Conference, Cde Chissano added this should mean that the next round "will culminate in the longed-for ceasefire which our entire people are demanding".

"We cannot just wait in the hope that a solid and lasting peace will happen in the distant future," said the president.

"We cannot accept delaying tactics designed to string out the negotiating process indefinitely".

The talks have been characterised by a series of delays in procedural wrangles, all initiated by MNR which has refused an attempt to give the negotiations a timetable. Cde Chissano calls for more pressure to be brought to bear on MNR.

"It is important that the international community undertakes the necessary efforts so that peace may be established rapidly in Mozambique," he said.

He noted that for more than three decades the Southern African region has lived through "an uninterrupted cycle of violence, war and destabilisation", and main victims of this have been the most vulnerable strata, notably children.

"Peace is not merely a state policy, but a demand of everyone of our citizens," declared Cde Chissano. — Ziana-AIM.