

FEARS that Inkatha is co-opting members of the notorious Mozambique rebel group Renamo have been fuelled by the arrival in kwaZulu of a mysterious detachment of Portuguese-speaking soldiers from Mozambique.

The *Weekly Mail* sent a reporter to kwaZulu this week to investigate reports that a "Renamo-type group" would be deployed in kwaMashu township, an African National Congress stronghold where tension is mounting over Sunday's Shaka Day rally.

A highly placed kwaZulu Police (KZP) source confirmed that 36 trained Portuguese-speaking men were recently brought to kwaZulu from Mozambique and are now based in Ulundi under the command of the KZP. The Mozambicans were imported with the help of members of the South African Police based in northern Natal, he added.

The source said they are intended to boost KZP strength when necessary, particularly if the threatened ANC march to the kwaZulu capital, Ulundi, goes ahead.

He said the Mozambican soldiers had breakfast on Tuesday with kwaZulu Minister of Police and Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi, KZP commissioner Major General Jac Buchner, KZP deputy commissioner Brigadier Siphon Mathe and other senior KZP officials.

Mystery Mozambicans boost KZP manpower

A highly placed kwaZulu Police source has confirmed that a mysterious detachment of Portuguese-speaking soldiers from Mozambique is operating in the homeland.

Weekly Mail Reporter

Also on Tuesday, KZP officers were briefed in Ulundi by Buchner. He allegedly discussed strategy for handling the Shaka Day rally and told the officers that "people would be coming" to help the KZP. They would provide extra manpower for the celebrations, and would later help to police other kwaZulu townships.

The source said that during a break in the discussions, a KZP van driven by a uniformed sergeant arrived, bringing 18 men whom he said had been fetched from the SAP in Piet Retief.

The men all spoke Portuguese, with a Captain Manzini from Esikawini acting as interpreter. They were later taken to the Ulundi government offices to meet and breakfast with Buthelezi and the other senior police officers.

According to the source, the other 18 Portuguese-speaking soldiers arrived separately and all 36 have now been placed under KZP command in Ulundi.

ANC northern Natal chairman Aaron Ndlovu said he had received sketchy details of the mystery arrivals earlier this week and that officials of the organisation had asked the Goldstone Commission to investigate.

Buthelezi strongly denied the reports and dismissed any suggestion of a "Renamo-type group" operating from Ulundi as "a figment of ANC imagination".

And Inkatha official Suzanne Vos yesterday also called for a Goldstone Commission investigation. She said Ndlovu should be called before

the commission to divulge his sources, adding that his statement was a highly inflammatory violation of the National Peace Accord.

The *Weekly Mail's* source said the Mozambican unit's brief is to back up the KZP forces this weekend in kwaMashu, where serious trouble associated with Sunday's Shaka Day rally is expected. On Wednesday five people were killed in unrest in the township, police reported yesterday.

The source added that Buchner had told his officers on Tuesday that all members of the KZP had to be on duty over the weekend and that no leave would be granted.

Buthelezi will address Sunday's rally in kwaMashu's Princess Magogo Stadium. Both Inkatha and the ANC have claimed they have information about attacks planned by the other side to ensure chaos in the township over the weekend.

Leaders of the two sides have urged a strong presence of international and local monitors on Sunday to minimise violence.

Pro-ANC organisations in the area have urged that the rally be called off, or be held in central Durban. Local civics are organising "mass evacuations" of several sections, particularly those along the route of the traditional march to the rally.