

# Frelimo honoured × Rome Peace Accord, Mocumbi

A SENIOR Mozambican government minister yesterday said the ruling Frelimo has honoured all its obligations to last year's Rome peace agreement and now expects Renamo and other political parties to do the same.

Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascal Mocumbi said the Frelimo government had met all the demands made by Renamo and so did not expect the former rebel movement to back out of the peace process.

Briefing journalists after a closed door meeting with President Robert Mugabe at Zimbabwe House yesterday morning, Mr Mocumbi said demands by other political parties were also met.

One of the demands made by Renamo soon after the Rome agreement was that the government should provide houses for Mr Afonso Dhlakama and other Renamo leaders in downtown Maputo and this the government had done, said Mr Mocumbi.

"However, it is not the government's obligation to transform Renamo or any movement into an effective political party. We could not be expected to help Renamo establish its new headquarters in Maputo. They have to do it themselves," said Mr Mocumbi.

Referring to recent Press reports that Renamo was confident of winning the forthcoming multi-party elections in Mozambique, Mr Mocumbi said it was normal for any political party to be confident before an election and that the ballot box would decide the winner.

He said the Frelimo government was also confident that it would be returned to power.

On the peace process, Mr Mocumbi said that although the protocols signed in Rome were still holding, there were delays in the implementation of some aspects of the agreement, especially in demobilising the government and MNR troops.

"The commission to train the new army has been put into place but it lacks the conception of how the new army should be," said Mr Mocumbi.

The foreign minister did not expect any party to the Mozambican peace process to have any problems with the coming of Italian soldiers to replace the Zimbabwean army that has been guarding the Beira and Limpopo corridors.

"Italy is part of the United Nations Mission to Mozambique and I believe when they take over from the Zimbabwean soldiers they will be working for the smooth implementation of the peace process," Mr Mocumbi said.

About his meeting with Mugabe, Mr Mocumbi said he had briefed the President on the talks he held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira.

"The talks centred mostly on strengthening the existing relations between Zimbabwe and Mozambique and on the two countries' desire to be engaged in more economic exchanges as the tension on the political atmosphere has now been eased," he said.

He also said he took the opportunity to convey a message from Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano to President Mugabe, who too had a message he gave Mr Mocumbi to take back to Mr Chissano.

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— Ziana