

## Renamo announces it refuses to work in peace commissions

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama has written to the UN special representative in Mozambique Aldo Ajello to say his delegates to commissions set up under the peace accord will not be returning to Maputo in the near future.

The director of Ajello's office, Dirk Salomons, told national television on Tuesday that Dhlakama was complaining that the government had failed to grant transport, accommodation and food guarantees.

The Dhlakama statement contradicts a promise by Renamo representative in Maputo, Vitor Anselmo that the delegates would be back in the city by Wednesday this week.

The peace process has been totally paralysed since March 9 when Renamo withdrew its members from the ceasefire and control commissions — the only two to which it had named members — in an apparent attempt to prevent the investigation of complaints of ceasefire violations.

The boycott has stopped preparation of assembly points and it is now likely to be June before the first soldier moves to the assembly points.

Dhlakama has set \$15 million as the price donors must pay before Renamo will send its troops to assembly points.

He told members of the European Parliament visiting him in his bush headquarters on April 3 in Maringue that "not one soldier of Renamo will be sent to an assembly point until we receive the money promised," adding that "Renamo's financial problems threaten democracy in Mozambique."

In a secret document signed by Renamo, the Mozambique government and Italy last year, the Italian government said it would try to raise \$15 million for Renamo. But the donors continue to refuse. Analysts in Maputo believe Dhlakama will accept \$3-5 million, but even this is not forthcoming.

Last week in a speech to a crowd in the Manica province town of Chimoio, President Joaquim Chissano attacked Renamo's reasons for delaying the peace process.

He said 18 houses in Maputo had been allocated to Renamo but that the group continued to demand more and more.

Some money and housing might end the boycott, but probably not until May at the earliest. In part this is because Dhlakama is on a three week European tour to look for money, while Ajello has been in Rome for two weeks of meetings with the Italian government and UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

But once Renamo is ready to return, they should be able to participate in all the commissions. According to Ajello,

Renamo has now trained 45 people to take up positions on all the various commissions and restart the process, once what Renamo considers adequate conditions are prepared in Maputo.

This is likely to involve a compound for Renamo on the Maputo beachfront, near similar Italian and South African compounds. The Italian government has promised to build Dhlakama a luxury house in the Maputo area.

In his speech Chissano drew a comparison with Angola's experience. He said that like Unita, Renamo was hindering the free movement of people, blocking economic activity in some places and trying to divide the country.

Accusing Dhlakama of behaving like Jonas Savimbi, he said: "If Renamo wants to repeat the Angolan experience in Mozambique we will know how to defend ourselves. We shall not wait to be slaughtered like chickens."

State radio reported on Saturday that Renamo men had moved in to try and take control of three areas in Nampula province. The report said that the authorities in Namatonda administrative area were being prevented from operating on the grounds that the area was under Renamo control before the peace accord was signed.

In the meantime, the UN has agreed to arrange the transport home of about 20,000 government troops who had been given demobilisation orders before the peace accord but who are still in barracks awaiting final pay and transport home with their families. The UN will also give each demobilised soldier civilian clothes consisting of two shirts and two pair of trousers, but so far does not have the money to provide shoes, socks or underwear. The UN's own operation has started only slowly, with a full budget still not available.

The dispute between the government and the UN over the status-of-forces agreement continues. Ajello wants an agreement similar to those which govern US operations in Somalia and other areas where there are peacekeeping forces, which gives the UN total freedom of movement without informing government.

But the government says Ajello wants the freedom to act like a colonial governor. The UN is in Mozambique as observers and facilitators, not peacekeepers, and even the peace accord acknowledges the authority of the government, it says.

• A meeting between Chissano and Dhlakama at the end of last week failed to materialise as expected. Earlier Chissano had said that the meeting would take place in the provincial town of Lichinga on Thursday, according to national radio.