

MOZAMBIQUE

Frelimo sees former rebels 'institutionalising division' of country

Mozambique government ministers have warned about the "institutionalisation of the division of the country, by the former rebel force Renamo. Former education minister Graca Machel this week described Renamo's continuing control over parts of the country and its refusal to allow certain businesses to operate there without its assent as "unconstitutional and illegal". Lumber operations and hunting are the main activities being contested.

Meanwhile UN peacekeeping troops have taken up positions in northern Mozambique's Nampula province, seven months after the Rome peace accord.

Although the ceasefire is generally holding throughout the country, Nampula and much of central Mozambique still have potential trouble spots.

The Unomoz force in Nampula mainly comprises Bangladeshi troops to protect the rail and road corridor between the border with Malawi and the port of Nacala.

They are to replace the 120 Malawian soldiers guarding their country's access route to the sea, but a senior Bangladeshi officer said the troops have the mandate to "protect" the whole of the north.

The government recently attacked the political direction of Unomoz for allegedly taking too high a profile in relations with the former rebel force Renamo.

Foreign Minister Pascual Mocumbi accused the UN of acting as a mediator between the two sides.

Observers believe the government is concerned that Renamo should achieve increasing international credibility in the process of being transformed from a rebel army into a political party.

This week Frelimo chief negotiator Armando Guebuza said Renamo "has made its participation in the [peace]

commissions, and hence the implementation of the peace accord itself" dependent on receiving more financial aid. He said the government had spent more than \$300,000 on Renamo by April.

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama was this week in Norway seeking funding for Renamo. He said that the Netherlands had agreed to take part in financing Renamo through the UN subsidiarity fund.

Earlier the Renamo delegation chief to the control commission, Raul Domingos, said his organisation needed \$100 million to contest the upcoming elections on an equal footing with Frelimo. Dhlakama said the figure was an exaggeration.

According to the commander of the UN forces in Mozambique the election will be held between June and July next year.

- Nearly 20,000 displaced people in the Gorongosa region in Sofala province have not returned to their homes because of fear of land mines, according to reports.

Removal of mines from the main roads has been proceeding since the beginning of the year, but many minefields in rural areas have not been identified,