

Chissano-Dhlakama meeting to go ahead — Renamo



D. Guiz
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LISBON — The meeting between Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and Renamo rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama will take place as scheduled on July 17, Renamo's Col Joaquim Vaz told a Portuguese newspaper here yesterday.

"The meeting is still being organised by my colleague Raul Domingos and the presidential advisor, Francisco Madeira," Col Vaz told the Lisbon daily newspaper *Publico* from an unspecified location.

Col Vaz denied that Mr Dhlakama, leader of the Mozambique Na-

tional Resistance (Renamo), had given the appointment of Renamo governors in several provinces as a condition to meeting President Chissano.

The Mozambique daily *Noticias* quoted an unnamed Dhlakama spokesperson as saying the Dhlakama-Chissano meeting had been put off.

Noticias quoted the spokesperson as saying 85 percent of Mozambican territory was controlled by Renamo and therefore Renamo should appoint governors to these provinces if the meeting was to take place.

However, Portuguese television reported from the Mozambican capital on Sunday that Mr Dhlakama had told Mr Chissano he was not available for the meeting.

United Nations observers in Mozambique deem a Chissano-Dhlakama meeting as the only way to make further progress in the peace process started in Rome in October 1990 when the two leaders signed an agreement to end 17 years of civil war.

— Ziana-IPS