

Dhlakama visits Maputo on Friday to meet Chissano

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MAPUTO.

RENAMO leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama said yesterday he would visit Maputo on Friday for a much-postponed meeting with President Joaquim Chissano.

He told Radio Mozambique he would stay in the capital for a week before returning to his bush

headquarters in the central district of Maringue.

The meeting was requested by Renamo and initially set for July 17. But Renamo repeatedly postponed it, citing "logistical" reasons.

Renamo says a dispute with Maputo over local government is the main issue holding up implementation of an accord to end 16 years of war and to hold Mozambique's first multi-party elections.

Renamo demands the right to appoint district and locality administrators in areas under its mi-

litary control as well as five of the country's 11 provincial governors.

Mr Dhlakama acknowledges that the peace accord he signed with Cde Chissano last October says nothing about provincial governors.

But he insists no Renamo troops will be disarmed or demobilised until the question of who administers the country is resolved.

Demobilisation is 10 months behind schedule and the elections, originally planned for this year, have been postponed till next year. — Ziana-Reuter.