

Mozambique governors summoned to Maputo for peace talks with Renamo

MAPUTO.

PRESIDENT Joaquim Chissano yesterday called Mozambique's 11 provincial governors to the capital to join his summit with Renamo leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama.

Cde Chissano, telling reporters of the decision at the end of the third day of talks with Mr Dhlakama, declined to say why they were being summoned but denied they were being fired.

"What is essential is not reshuffling the governors, but creating a climate of mutual trust," he added.

Before the talks on Monday, Renamo had demanded the right to appoint at least five governors.

The talks, focusing on the build-up to multi-party elections scheduled for October next year, were adjourned to tomorrow when the governors are expected to arrive.

"I think the meeting will be a success," Mr Dhlakama said at the end of yesterday's session.

Despite the upbeat mood of the two leaders, a lower level multi-party conference on a draft electoral law ran into deadlock on Tuesday over a Renamo demand for an opposition majority on the

national elections commission.

Renamo said the opposition should have 13 of the 21 seats on the commission, the body that will organise the entire election process. It had earlier demanded 14 seats and it portrayed the new figure as a major concession.

The government argued that this would produce a highly unbalanced commission. It proposed that 11 members be appointed by the government and 10 by the opposition — seven by Renamo and three by other opposition parties.

When Justice Minister Cde Ali Dauto, chairing the conference, pleaded for a compromise, Renamo official Mr Jose de Castro said: "We will not make any further concessions."

Diplomats said it seemed only intervention by Cde Chissano and Mr Dhlakama themselves, by solving the commission problem over the heads of the delegations, could rescue the conference.

The UN special envoy to Mozambique, Mr Aldo Ajello, has given the conference until the end of August to produce a final version of the election law. — Ziana-Reuter.