

CHISSANO/DHLAKAMA FINAL DOCUMENT

Maputo, 3 September (Aim)...Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano and the leader of the Renamo rebels, Afonso Dhlakama, ended almost two weeks of talks with the signing in Maputo today of a document detailing agreements on territorial administration and the supervision of the police force.

In order to assist in reintegrating Renamo-occupied zones into a single state administration, the government has agreed to create the new post of +adviser to the governor+.

The document states that there will be three such advisers in each province, appointed by Renamo. All decisions concerning those areas of the province in Renamo hands can only be taken after seeking the opinion of the advisers.

Whenever they think it appropriate, the advisers may propose measures, or submit opinions to the provincial governors.

The advisers can only be sacked if Renamo agrees, and can be replaced whenever Renamo wishes.

The governors will indicate which provincial directors should work with the advisers. All provincial directors are obliged to provide +all the assistance needed for the advisers to carry out their duties correctly+.

Once all the advisers are carrying out their duties, the government will appoint administrators for the zones currently in Renamo hands. As last October's peace accord stipulates, these administrative posts must be filled by people resident in the areas concerned.

Renamo will provide the names of these people, and the government will formally appoint them.

The advisers will be paid will be provided with housing for which they will pay rent. They will also be given the use of vehicles to carry out their duties.

As for the police, the two sides will ask the United Nations to send a police corps to supervise all police activities, and to ensure respect for citizens' rights and freedoms.

The UN police officers will also be asked to verify that the activity of private security companies does not contradict the peace agreement.

The government will also ask donors to assist in the reorganisation and training of the riot police, and in providing it with equipment, so that this force conforms to +internationally acceptable standards+.

The government will present a list of all the weaponry possessed by the police, and where it is located.

The document gives no timeframe for any of this, but Chissano pledged that the government would start working on its obligations immediately.

The United Nations will certainly be disappointed that this agreement says nothing about demobilising government and Renamo forces. Under the peace accord's original timetable, demobilisation should have been complete by mid-April, but in fact it has not even started. Not a single fighter from either side has handed in his gun at any of the UN-administered assembly points now operational.

On Tuesday, Dhlakama declared that he would not order the demobilisation of his fighters until seeing how the new mechanisms for the police and for local administration worked.

Imposing this new condition on demobilisation has no justification whatsoever in the text of the peace accord. It implies further delays of weeks, if not months, in implementing this key part of the October agreement.

A third issue discussed by Dhlakama and Chissano was the Mozambican media, which Renamo claims is biased in favour of the government. But no measures are proposed, since it proved impossible for the two sides to reach any consensus.

Renamo wanted to institute a new mechanism to +control+ the publicly-owned media, and journalists feared that this was no more than a disguised form of censorship commission.

The government rejected any such mechanism and pointed out that there already exists a law guaranteeing press freedom, and forbidding all interference in the editorial independence of the media.

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