

Chissano appeals for support

Daily Gazette 9/3/92

MOZAMBICAN leader, President Joaquim Chissano, yesterday officially opened the Nordic-Sadc Journalism Centre in Maputo and immediately appealed to journalists in the region to support his efforts of bringing lasting peace to his country recovering from 17 years of a bloody civil war.

Mr Chissano told about 100 representatives of journalists from Southern Africa and the Nordic countries that he believed in the freedom of the Press but advised that in some cases irresponsible journalism could destroy the peace efforts in his country.

He appealed to journalists in the Southern African Development Community to write news reports which were positive in relation to the peace process in

Mozambique, saying any irresponsible reporting could derail the road to multi-party elections scheduled for October next year.

"Make good use of your Press freedom. You should fight for it but use it for good things like democracy, unity and fight for more freedom," said Mr Chissano.

The Mozambican leader warned that irresponsible journalism could bring war to this country which is currently experiencing a ray of hope for the first time in 17 years.

"We need responsible journalists in this region who will work to develop the Sadc."

Journalists within the Sadc, he said, should work hard to develop this region.

He said his government was making every effort to honour the Rome Peace agreement which called for the cessation of hostilities in Mozambique.

"We are working towards holding elections in October 1994," he said.

"In my view, journalists in this region should promote and support the peace process and unity in this country."

Journalists, he said, should strive to positively portray problems facing Mozambique.

"My government will honour the Security Council resolution on Mozambique," he said.