

Eleventh hour agreement

The government and leaders of the country's political parties have finally signed a declaration that they have reached consensus on the text of the election bill to be put before the Assembly of the Republic.

Renamo had tried to insert an article into the bill disenfranchising emigrants. This would have been unconstitutional, and Chissano persuaded Dhlakama that the bill should specify the right of all Mozambican citizens to vote.

The government was forced to concede Renamo's demands for a politicisation of the technical bodies, particularly of the Election Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE). The bill now states that the government will appoint the STAE director, who will be assisted by two deputy directors, one appointed by Renamo, and one by the other opposition parties.

50 per cent of the STAE technical staff will be appointed by the government, 25 per cent by Renamo and 25 per cent by the United Nations. Similar share-outs are envisaged at provincial and district level. Justice Minister Ali Dauto said this means that the UN will be asked to supply 15-20 technical staff at central level, two or three in each of the 11 provinces, and perhaps one in each of the 128 districts. Ali Dauto hoped the bill would be passed on 15 December, two weeks later than timetabled. AIM-30/11/93

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