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Soldiers in Beira go on rampage

MAPUTO. — Demobilised soldiers in the Mozambican port of Beira broke into a weapons store and fired shots as other former government troops threatened “civil war” over their financial demands.

Reliable sources in Beira said former government soldiers from Matacuane, the largest military base in central Sofala province, began their protest yesterday.

The government’s provincial army command in Sofala was abolished on Monday as part of a process to hand over authority and infrastructure to Mozambique’s new national defence force combining government and soldiers of the former rebel Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo).

Some soldiers demobilised from Matacuane want to join the new army, while others were selected but want to be demobilised. Yet others are unhappy about their severance pay. — Sapa-AFP.