

Auret 'rescued' in Mozambique

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — Deputy director-general of foreign affairs Derek Auret and seven other South Africans were evacuated from a Renamo base in northern Mozambique after their plane broke down.

Mr Auret was en route to a meeting with Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama. According to the National Director of Civil Aviation in Maputo, Paulo Muchanga, the aircraft had authorisation to fly to the Renamo headquarters at Marin-

gue in the central province of Sofala.

The plane did not, however, go to Maringue. Instead, the pilot filed a flight plan for Pemba, the capital in the northernmost province of Cabo Delgado, but flew to Lurio, an area under the military control of Renamo.

Maputo media today reported that the plane had, in fact, crashed, and that no one was injured. Mr Auret's mission was reportedly to persuade Dhlakama to meet President Joaquim Chissano in Maputo so the peace process could be speeded.

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