

Emotional event for D Mozambicans

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MACHIPANDA — The departure of Zimbabwean troops from Mozambique was an emotional event for Mozambicans, who expressed concern over what the future held for them.

The troops were seen off at Chimoio by Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano.

Foreign journalists and Mozambican nationals arriving here ahead of the long Zimbabwean National Army convoy, said Mozambicans living along the Beira Corridor had expressed feelings of insecurity and uncertainty at Renamo's sincerity in implementing the peace agreement.

The relationship of locals with the Italian troops, with their more sophisticated weaponry but smaller numbers, was said to be strained, due partly to language differences.

The sense of insecurity among the Mozambicans is partly due to the different peacekeeping methods employed by the Zimbabweans and the Italians.

The Zimbabweans, due to their numerical superiority, were positioned at points about 500 metres apart and conducted foot patrols in between them. The Italians are based in Chimoio and conduct only periodic patrols away from the oil pipeline and areas of population, one journalist said.