

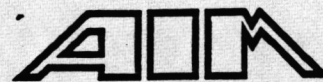
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Guebuza urges donors to pressurise Renamo

The Mozambican government's chief negotiator with Renamo, Transport Minister Armando Guebuza, has urged the international community to force Renamo to respect the 1992 peace accord and the resolutions on Mozambique passed by the UN Security Council.

Briefing the Mozambican parliament on 30 November, Guebuza blamed Renamo for the delays in implementing the 1992 agreement. He disagreed with the argument, put forward repeatedly by Aldo Ajello, that the original timetable for the peace accord was unrealistic. "The timetable was purely and simply ignored", he said. He noted that when the timetable was redrafted, after tripartite discussions between the government, Renamo and Onumoz, Renamo refused to sign it. It only agreed to sign three months later, after the October visit to Maputo of UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. Even after Boutros Ghali's visit, Renamo raised new problems over the electoral bill which required a third round of meetings between President Chissano and Dhlakama.

"We are faced with a process where one of the sides finds agreed dates inconvenient, and even when they exist only complies with them insofar as it finds them useful for its own interests", accused Guebuza. "Otherwise it just ignores them".

Guebuza criticised the international community for failing to provide the financial support promised to Mozambique during the lengthy negotiations that led up to the peace accord. The choices made in drafting the accord depended on "the explicit supposition that the international community was prepared to fund them", he said. Donors were now conditioning their finance on speeding up implementation of the peace accord. Guebuza's solution to this conundrum was that the donors should put pressure on Renamo. UN resolutions had already stated as much. In a coded warning to

Ajello, Guebuza said that "arbitrary pressure" or "mere declarations of principle" have proved "not only unjust, but disastrous or absolutely useless". He urged that the international community clearly identify by name those responsible for delays or failure to implement the accord.

"Someone has to prove that we are not facing a situation of double standards here", remarked Guebuza.

As for the draft electoral bill, which this session of the Assembly should pass into law, Guebuza said that the government had made significant concessions. He was worried that the mechanisms inserted in the election bill at Renamo's demand "can be used to continue a strategy of creating impasses in pursuit of goals that have nothing to do with peace or democracy".

He urged Mozambican civil society and the international community to discourage or neutralise any attempt to abuse the mechanisms of the electoral law.

Concluding, Guebuza said that the period for the cantonment of forces would be the decisive proof as to whether the signatories of the peace accord were really interested in peace and democracy. He said this would put to the test "the ability of Onumoz to control and supervise this process with objectivity and efficiency. If the process succeeds, then we will all win, the government, Renamo and Onumoz, because peace and democracy will have triumphed".

"But if something goes wrong", Guebuza warned, "then history will record implacably who was responsible for bringing the terrible spectre of war back to haunt our country". AIM-30/11/93

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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

Ministers question usefulness of structural adjustment policies

There is a limit to the sacrifices that can be demanded of the Mozambican people in the name of structural adjustment, warned Mozambique's Labour Minister, Teodato Hunguana, in an interview published in 29 November issue of *Noticias*.

Commenting on the previous week's rioting against the 100 per cent fare hike imposed by private transport operators, Hunguana said discontent in Mozambique "has a real and objective basis, resulting from the extraordinary rise in the cost of living".

He pointed out that wage levels in no way accompanied the soaring rise in prices. Social conditions in Mozambique were now "very tough", said Hunguana. "That's why even from within the World Bank and the IMF pertinent questions are being raised about structural adjustment programmes".

A breakdown of government in Mozambique, he pointed out, was not in the interests either of the country itself or of foreign donors.

Industrial collapse warning

Further evidence that the structural adjustment measures imposed on Mozambique by the IMF and the World Bank are not working was conveyed by Mozambique's Minister of Industry and

Energy, Octavio Muthemba, when speaking at the opening in Maputo of a session of the Coordinating Council of his ministry, on 25 November.

According to a report in 26 November edition of *Noticias* Muthemba warned that industrial production this year will plummet by more than 15 per cent. Muthemba blamed this problem on lack of demand. Mozambican industries have been unable to sell their products locally, or develop export markets for them.

The export-led growth the IMF preaches cannot happen, if Mozambican goods cannot find buyers abroad. And the private business sector cannot develop if the level of wages is so low that most Mozambican citizens cannot afford the goods that local industries produce.

The Government, he said, has the responsibility to set policies that will create new jobs, in an effort to stop the growth of unemployment.

He stressed in particular the role of the Institute for the Development of Local Industry (IDIL) in supporting small and medium sized businesses, helping in the preparation of projects and in obtaining the necessary funds.

The Fund to Promote Small Industry (FFPI), which concludes its experimental phase this year, will be an

important financial instrument for IDIL, said Muthemba. AIM-26/29/11/93

OTM condemns fuel price rise

The Mozambican trade union federation, the OTM, has strongly condemned the 22 November rise in fuel prices and has demanded that the government cancel it. A statement from the OTM declared that "once again the government, without any consultation or contact with other social forces, particularly with the trade union movement, has decided to take measures that seriously damage workers' living conditions".

The OTM protested that the last increase in the minimum wage, which took effect in August, has already been eaten away by price rises, "and the situation of the workers is characterised by a sense of frustration and discontent". That increase, of 20 per cent, brought the minimum wage to 70,600 meticaís a month - less than 14 US dollars at current exchange rates.

The statement expressed concern at the continued decline in working class living standards, and warned that the labour movement may resort to strike action if the government continues on its present path. The OTM urged all workers "to organise in defence of their legitimate rights and interests". AIM-27/11/93

New party the result of PPPM wrangles

The split inside the opposition Mozambican People's Progress Party (PPPM) has given birth to a new political organisation, calling itself the Labour Party. The former PPPM deputy president, Miguel Mabote, announced the formation of the Labour Party (PT) at a Maputo press conference on the 27 November.

Despite its name, the PT has no links with Mozambique's organised labour movement, and does not espouse any form of socialist ideology. Mabote and his supporters attempted to seize control of the PPPM in October. They issued a statement suspending the party's president, Padimbe Kamati, whom they accused of political incompetence and tribalism, and said that Mabote would head the party on an interim basis.

But Kamati refused to be suspended, mobilised his own supporters and began expelling or suspending members of the Mabote faction. He could show reporters a letter from late August, bearing Mabote's signature, in which Mabote resigned from the PPPM. Mabote has maintained that this letter is "an invention of Kamati".

Failing to take over the PPPM, Mabote has now set up his own organisation, which already claims 4,000 members. He refused to say whether this was a majority of the old PPPM membership. He laughed at Kamati's claim that the PPPM has

over a million members, but declined to give the real PPPM membership figure.

Mabote denied Kamati's claim that he is driven by "political ambition". He accused Kamati of treating the PPPM as his personal property. "It's a party of one person", he declared. "This is different. The PT belongs to its members". The PT's political manifesto declares, "we are sure that we will have the largest representation in parliament".

Questioned about this Mabote said he was not sure that the PT would win the elections, but it would certainly aim for a large number of deputies in the future parliament. In the PPPM, Mabote was a dedicated defender of a federal future for Mozambique, but in the PT manifesto, the term federalism has completely disappeared, replaced by weaker formulations about decentralisation.

The rest of the manifesto consists of promises that education, health, agriculture, and transport will all be dramatically improved, if the electorate votes for Mabote and his followers. There will be more schools, more health posts, more roads and railways, and the PT even promises to build new cities. Where the money for this will come from is unclear: certainly not from the Mozambican state budget, since the PT also promises a 50 per cent cut in taxes and customs duties. AIM-27/11/93

Two die in Maputo anger over price rises

Two people are known to have died and nearly one hundred seriously injured during a day of rioting in Maputo apparently provoked by a 100 per cent increase in fares charged by private transport operators. The injured were treated in various health units in the capital, and three are still in a serious condition.

The riot, which involved a disproportionate number of children, began when residents discovered mini-bus charges had doubled from 500 to 1,000 meticaïs (10 to 20 US cents), when they embarked on journeys to work on the morning of 24 November. The rioting caused tens of thousands of dollars worth of damage. Crowds blocked roads, looted stores, and overturned vehicles. The mini-buses, known as "chapas", were grounded as a result of the violence.

Maputo police chief Fernando Saete, reported that about 20 rioters and looters had been arrested. Some of the injured claimed they had received brutal beatings at the hands of the police. Armed riot police had also been stationed at major intersections.

Avenida Eduardo Mondlane, one of Maputo's main thoroughfares, and the site of some of the worst looting was calm the following day. Its shopkeepers and municipal workers picked up the pieces. Cars that had been rolled into the street and overturned were removed, and

scores of garbage bins were righted and returned to their proper places. Large chunks of concrete which had been used to barricade the street had been pushed onto the central reservation that runs down the middle of the dual carriageway. Glass was being swept away outside shops that had been either vandalized or looted.

Although the mood on the street was calm, many young residents blamed the Government, accusing it, among other things, of owning the mini-buses and pocketing the profits. (The mini-buses are privately owned and government involvement should go no further than licensing the vehicles.)

One twelve year old told AIM "either the fare returns to 500 meticaïs, or wages are increased, or the violence will continue". A ten year old added, "A Luta Continua", (the struggle continues) echoing past struggles of a somewhat different nature.

One shopkeeper declared "if the Government doesn't do something concrete about the situation, there is going to be more rioting, and more violence. Something must be done".

A woman singled out Renamo for blame. "Renamo's the one that destroyed the economy. Now they are stalling, because they want power whether the people want them or not. They encourage the violence, because it makes the government look bad".

Most owners of chapas kept them off the road for the next two days for fear that they would come under renewed attack. They defended their doubling of the fare by citing the 57 per cent increase in the price of diesel on Monday 22 November.

Those mini-bus owners who are organized under the Association of Mini-Bus Owners of Maputo insisted at a meeting of around 60 of them, that the fare remain at 1,000 meticaïs (at current exchange rates, there are approximately 5,300 meticaïs to the US dollar)

A statement said that owners had not put up fares since March 1992 despite three other fuel price rises. They also had to buy lubricants, tyres, spare parts, and pay interest on bank loans and licence fees.

Some openly told Mozambican Television that 600 or 700 meticaïs would in theory be a better fare, but would raise problems of change. The Bank of Mozambique has denied claims that there is a shortage of 100 metical notes and the government has denounced the fare rise as "senseless and not justified by the increase in the fuel price".

Meanwhile the Maputo public bus company, TPM, has maintained its fare at 500 meticaïs. 35 of its 40 buses are back on the streets - five were damaged in the rioting even though they had not increased their fares. AIM-24/29/11/93

Train derailment kills two

Traffic along the railway between the central Mozambican port of Beira and Zimbabwe has been interrupted due to a derailment which occurred on 28 November. The accident, in which the train driver and the fireman were both killed, took place 229 kilometres west of Beira. The locomotive was severely damaged and ten goods wagons, carrying containers of maize and tobacco from Zimbabwe, were derailed. Torrential rains are believed to have caused the derailment. AIM-29/11/93

Soldiers accused of assault

Soldiers belonging to the Nacala Corridor Command, physically assaulted the head of the railway station of Malema on 20 November, according to a recent

report in *Noticias*. Despite the end of the war with Renamo this Command continues to escort trains carrying ballast for Mozambique Railways' Northern Improvement Brigade (BMN).

The motive for the attack on the station master is unknown. "The attack which took place in Malema is the result of the insubordination of the armed and uniformed soldiers that escort the trains," Joao Azinheira Filipe, Executive Director of Mozambique Railways Northern Division (CFM Norte), told *Noticias*.

The three parties involved in the situation, CFM Norte, the BMN and the Nacala Corridor Command have not yet been able to devise a way to put an end to the attacks. AIM-29/11/93

Renamo seek own cloth to cut

Renamo want the people living in areas under their control to go to the polling stations in next year's elections wearing clothes that show the portrait of Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama.

Renamo defend this position on the grounds that these people may not have anything else to wear. However, Francisco Madeira, the diplomatic adviser to President Joaquim Chissano, warned "to some extent this might disturb the atmosphere during voting".

Madeira added he was sure that Renamo would eventually understand that "the vote is secret, and should be totally secret. People can't say the vote is secret and turn up to the polls wearing clothes with pictures or emblems of a political party". AIM-27/11/93

Aid, Refugees and Reconstruction: humanitarian assistance programmes to cover essential needs

Bernt Bernander, head of the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance Coordination in Mozambique (UNOHAC) has presented an updated version of the Consolidated Humanitarian Assistance Programme for the May 1993-April 1994 crop year, which costs Mozambique's priority needs for this period at \$609.7 million. This is a nine per cent increase on the estimate of \$559.6 million given when the programme was first published in May.

The programme covers the repatriation of refugees, demobilization of government and Renamo forces, the provision of emergency relief and food aid to returnees and displaced people, the restoration of essential services, mine clearance, and support for the balance of payments. Bernander said that so far donors have committed \$559.4 million to the needs as outlined in the programme.

However, the update noted that underfunding is threatening the refugee programme. The plan, drawn up by the UNHCR is the largest repatriation effort ever undertaken in Africa. The entire three year programme is costed at 203 million US dollars.

To date only 34 million out of the required 55 million dollars for the first year has been committed by donors. The Dutch government has granted 30 million florins (about 16 million US dollars) The money will be disbursed in two instalments. 20 million florins will be made available after the signing of a formal agreement with UNHCR in the next few weeks. The remaining ten million will be disbursed in 1994 after an assessment of the first stage of the programme.

The UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) have been responsible for the distribution of food to over 420,000 refugees who have returned to Mozambique since the signing of the peace accord in October

1992.

Agreements have also been made with non-governmental organisations to assist in food distribution at the village level. The rate of return is much lower than originally expected, and it is now estimated that by May 1994 only 750,000 returnees (about half of the total) will be back inside the country.

Although 25 million dollars has been committed to community-based projects which support the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the reintegration process, only a small amount has moved beyond the project formulation stage and the selection of implementing agencies. Approximately 1.5 million of the estimated 4.5 million displaced persons have already moved back to their home areas, and more than 2 million resettlers are expected over the next year.

A projected budget of 34.7 million dollars is needed to support vocational and entrepreneurial training for the demobilised, the development of a credit programme, employment identification, and income generation, yet only 9.4 million dollars has been either pledged or committed.

The national mine clearance plan is coordinating a massive effort to clear, in its initial phase, 4,000 kilometres of roads, provide mine awareness programs, and set up a training centre to train 1,500 Mozambicans in the process of demining.

AIM-26/11/93

Germany and Holland to support reconstruction

The Mozambican, German and Dutch governments have signed agreements for the financial year 1993-94 under which Germany has pledged aid to Mozambique valued at 107.7 million marks (about 63 million US dollars), and Holland the equivalent of 24 million US dollars.

52.5 million German marks are destined to support structural adjustment measures, 19.3 million marks is

earmarked for technical assistance in programmes of rural rehabilitation, manpower training, and institutional support at central and provincial level. 22 million marks will be spent on "consolidating the Mozambican peace process", and 12.8 million marks is for food security.

A special programme for the resettlement of Mozambican women refugees accounts for the final 1.1 million marks.

The Dutch money is to cover support for the balance of payments, and cooperation in the fields of rural development, civil aviation, water supply, health, education, fisheries and trade.

AIM-25:28/11/93

Assembly points now ready

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has already put in place basic food rations in the 26 assembly points due to be opened on 30 November. According to a WFP press release today, the commodities provided include maize, rice, pulses, vegetable oil, biscuits and sugar.

The Mozambican government has agreed to supply the assembly points with meat, fish, bread and salt. Airlifts were used to ferry food to five assembly points in the north of the country. Once at the assembly points the food is stored in plastic tents donated by Canada, each with a capacity of 30 to 40 tonnes.

The military observers of Onumoz are responsible for providing security. It is estimated that when all 49 assembly points are open they will cater for a total of 62,000 government troops, 20,000 Renamo fighters, and possibly 40,000 dependents.

The WFP estimates the total cost of supplies at 5.8 million US dollars. This covers 16,700 tonnes of food, and transport costs. Donors supporting the operation include the European Community, Norway, Holland, Japan and Canada.

AIM-29/11/93

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