

Dramatic proposals for Mozambique

MAPUTO — Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano introduced a draft constitution yesterday that would provide for universal suffrage, a secret ballot, and direct election of the president and parliament of the formerly Marxist state.

Under the draft constitution, which will be debated in meetings throughout the country, Mozambique would remain a one-party state.

But Chissano, unveiling the draft at a public rally, said the question of a multiple party political system should be freely discussed.

The new constitution, if adopted by the People's Assembly, would also scrap the death penalty, outlaw torture, enshrine the

right to strike and reintroduce the private ownership of land which ended in 1975.

At present the Frelimo president automatically becomes president and there is no limit on his term. The draft makes it possible for anyone with enough support to become president for a five-year term.

No time was set for conclusion of the debate on the draft, which also establishes the judiciary's independence.

Chissano told the rally that MNR leader Afonso Dhlakama had rejected direct talks with the government but offered to talk to Frelimo.

But Chissano said this was an attempt by the guerrillas to get their group recognised as a political party. — Sapa-AP.

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