[Text] Milange, Malawi, (MANA/PANA) — Frelimo soldiers on Thursday, 2 June recaptured Milange District Headquarters in Mozambique's Zambezia Province. The Mozambique Embassy in Lilongwe and the consulate in Blantyre confirmed on Wednesday, 8 June, that their government security forces had recaptured Milange and were in full control of the district. An embassy spokesman said: We have yet to get other details on the situation from the provincial capital, Quelimane, to be clear of the present position.

Eye witnesses at the border said that during the operation [word indistinct] Mozambican soldiers were parachuted into the area by two airforce personnel carriers supported by six helicopters. Two jet fighters provided fire cover for safe landing of the Mozambican combatants.

The witnesses said the operation started about 10.30 a.m. (8.30 gmt) and the assault continued until in the [words indistinct] without resistance from Renamo.

During the recapture of Milange District Headquarters just across the Malawi border, two bombs were dropped on the Malawi side, one of which killed a Mozambican mother and her baby.

Following the recapture of Milange in Mozambique, an influx of 12,000 displaced Mozambicans flocked into Milange District in Malawi, swelling the number at Muloza Camp to over 22,000. Malawi medical officers worked round the clock vaccinating children accompanying their fleeing parents while Christian Service Committee (CSI) personnel and officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees constructed shelters and distributed blankets and food to the new arrivals

Joe Pedro, who entered Malawi from a village across the border, said that he had seen the Renamo rebels running away in disarray, routing and harassing civilians. Alberto Ngoloma also from another village in Mozambique said that he had been told by friends that Frelimo government ground forces were marching into Milange District from the northern part of the country.

On Monday, 6 June, some Mozambican Army (Frelimo) officers crossed into Malawi and held talks with the Malawi officials on border security. Malawi and Mozambique have a joint security commission.

Members of the Milange District Development Committee (DDC) on Tuesday visited Phalombe, (sub-district of Milange), to view sites provided for more Mozambican refugees. The team included Patrick de Sousa, head of the Blantyre UNHCR sub-office, site and water engineers, as well as other field officers. Mr de Sousa thanked the local chief and members of the DDC for their cooperation to ease the problems of the refugees.