

Foreign power blamed for MNR

S Mail
17
6
90

DAR ES SALAAM.

MOZAMBICAN Home Affairs Minister Mariano Matsinhe on Friday condemned a foreign power for supporting the Mozambique National Resistance bandits to break off the peace talks with his government.

The visiting minister said in Tanzania's central city of Dodoma that the scheduled peace talks in Malawi were broken off because the MNR refused to negotiate.

He said that a foreign country is arming the MNR with an aim of destabilising Mozambique.

"The aim of the foreign power assisting the MNR is to bring into the country a multi-party system which can change the entire political panorama in Mozambique," the minister noted.

He said that the MNR was a strong army with regular supply of armaments from Western powers.

"We have asked MNR to tell us what they want so that harmony and territorial integrity can be achieved," he said.

The Mozambican minister and his delegation arrived in Tanzania last Tuesday for a two-week official visit.

Meanwhile, a historic moment eluded the war-weary people of Mozambique last week as the MNR declined to hold peace talks with the government.

The refusal by Afonso Dhlakama to meet with the official Mozambican negotiating team was the latest in a long series of obstacles that have hindered the start of direct talks to end the 15-year-old war.

Last month, while Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano was on a trip to Portugal, the two sides agreed to direct contact for the first time. — Ziana-IPS.