

SA still supports Renamo — claim

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PRETORIA. — Renamo rebels in Mozambique are still being supported by South Africa with the connivance of the government, claims former Mozambican security minister Sergio Vieira.

It is understood the Mozambican government has officially complained to Pretoria, with the issue being high on the agenda when President De Klerk visited Maputo recently.

Colonel Vieira told a conference organised by the Institute of Defence Politics in Pretoria that the aid to Renamo has been "privatised to some extent" with the "support of those in power".

He said the Mozambi-

can government had so far "abstained from implicating Pretoria in the continuing violence" but that there was "a wealth of testimony" from Mozambican soldiers and civilians that the logistical support continued.

He cited evidence from Mozambican witnesses that planes and helicopters were still landing at remote airstrips inside the country, and that there were reports of vehicles crossing the South African-Mozambique border.

He said also that captured Renamo fighters had claimed their movement was supplying poached ivory and other illegal wildlife products to people in the SADF in return for guns.

Colonel Vieira said when the Mozambicans complained to the South African government they were told "private organisations" in South Africa were involved in the gun-running operations.

"If this is so it is the responsibility of the government to put a stop to it."

The South African Department of Foreign Affairs declined to comment.

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