

planes and helicopters, it was still very difficult to get to isolated areas.

In Morrumbala district, for example, 124 polling stations – half of which were accessible only by helicopter – had to be supplied with personnel and materials from a base that was little more than a bare four-roomed house with no electricity, phones or water. The head of this district CNE office was amazingly calm and cheerful, even when he was obliged to hitch rides with international observers in order to visit his stations during the voting days.

At this office, late in the last afternoon before the first day of the election, crowds of polling station officials were still waiting to be transported to their designated voting stations. The UN helicopter was five hours late and the whole operation appeared to be on the brink of collapse.

But people worked through the night to overcome the obstacles and by seven o'clock the next morning most stations were up and running. All stations in the district were operational by the afternoon.

Fears that the election might be undermined by intimidation and fear proved groundless. Across the country voters

demonstrated a quiet calm and great patience. Few incidents of intimidation occurred and people generally kept to the "no campaigning" rule. In three days of election monitoring in Morrumbala district, observers witnessed only two instances of conflict.

One involved a Renamo poster spotted by a Frelimo supporter within the 300-metre restricted area of a voting station. Officials were swiftly notified and the owner of the hut where the poster was hung removed the offending article with a chuckle.

The other occurred at an isolated voting station in the hills, where Renamo support was strong, and the Frelimo district administrator was infuriated by people pointing out Renamo on the specimen ballot paper that was pinned to a tree. Although displaying a specimen paper at a voting station was mandatory – so as to allow voters to inform themselves – the administrator demanded that it be torn down and police complied.

The election was seldom a festive affair; only in Maputo was there any feeling of great enthusiasm. But people still came to vote, often queueing for hours in the sun. Some people travelled great distances to the station where they were registered.

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Why did Renamo do so well?

POLITICAL experts will debate the intricacies of the Mozambican election results for months to come, and one of their most puzzling questions will be: why did Renamo do so well?

Few analysts doubted that Frelimo would win the legislative ballot, or that Joaquim Chissano would gain the required 50 percent vote for the presidency. But not many anticipated the size of Renamo's support. UN figures before the election estimated that Renamo controlled 24 percent of the territo-



getting 1,7 million votes for the presidency as compared to Chissano's 2,6 million.

The reasons for this support are varied. Some votes were gained on a purely anti-Frelimo ticket. After two decades of Frelimo rule, characterised in recent years by rampant corruption, some voters were obviously disenchanted. Others felt that regardless of policies an election signalled a change, and that should mean a complete change of government.

It has been suggested that the Catholic

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What do victims of human rights abuses expect from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

The opinions are varied but Chris Ribeiro will be satisfied with nothing less than the prosecution of his parents' killers, reports ALICE COETZEE.

Voice of grief

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"IF MY parents' killers get amnesty, it will be like having my parents killed for the second time," says Chris Ribeiro. He can neither forgive nor forget the assassination of Fabian and Florence Ribeiro, who were gunned down in their Mamelodi home on 1 December 1986.

Carrying his grief like a constant, dark shadow, Chris, 32, says it has become a personal crusade to find the killers and see them brought to justice. "If the killers are not going to face the music then I am not interested in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. If the commission's purpose is just to establish the state's guilt - something we all know - then it will be futile. The intent should be prosecution," he says.

According to the draft bill, the commission will not itself have the power to prosecute. The proposal is that people who committed offences before or on 5 December 1993 will receive amnesty in exchange for full disclosure of the truth. Perpetrators who do not take part in this process will be liable for prosecution and the commission will forward their names to the attorney-general who will decide whether or not to prosecute. Amnesty is not automatic however, particularly in the case of heinous crimes.

Chris is adamant that the commission must have full powers of investigation. "I don't want anybody to be protected, from PW Botha downwards," he says.

Fabian Ribeiro was a prominent medical doctor in Mamelodi, his wife a businesswoman. Both were dedicated and respected community

Running into the house he found his father shot in the head so many times that blood was spurting out. Florence had been shot in the chest. Chris held her she sighed once, as if to say she was glad to see him.

In the aftermath of shock and confusion, the police were not called, yet both the father and mother were taken to hospital. Chris stayed in the house. Soldiers were further down the road preventing people from passing the house.

The ambulance men found that his mother was taken to Mamelodi Hospital. She died through the township and she was buried in the township.

The house was sealed and Chris was threatened to shoot him if he persisted. He was taken away. "They were removing a threat," he says.

In the subsequent arraignment of the accused for Information stated that the deaths were linked to the ANC, PAC and Azapo. Five years later the commission established that there was sufficient evidence for the Ribeiro's deaths. Yet there were no prosecutions. Noel Robey, who was linked to the assassination, move was made to extradite him.

The commission has not yet