MOZAMBIQUE - GENERAL

1994
The World Bank is ready to fund a multi-billion rand project that could in time be part of gas pipeline criss-crossing much of the sub-continent.

The bank has funded a pre-feasibility study of the Pande gas field in Mozambique, and bank staffs believe that a pipeline could be built within a few years to bring the gas to the Reef.

Natural gas could make a substantial contribution to the SA energy market. One estimate is that Pande gas could make annual savings in SA of R5-billion.

The possibility exists later that natural gas pipelines could link the sub-continent from Pande via SA to the Kudu gas field off Namibia, and include fields in Angola and Tanzania.

Pande, 600km north of Maputo, will include a R130-million field and a R2-billion to R2.5-billion pipeline to Komatipoort, going on to Richard's Bay or Secunda.

Sasol is said to be interested in the project and has a one-year, first refusal option with the Mozambican authority, Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos. This agreement is expected to be renewed soon.

Agnostinian company PlusPetrol has expressed interest in operating the field. Other South African private and public companies are expected to participate, and meetings are scheduled for early this year.

Pre-feasibility studies funded by the bank have shown gas reserves of about 20 years. Further tests being conducted as part of this project participants believe 30 to 40 years' supply will provide a more acceptable cushion for the project.

The plan is to pipe methane gas to the Reef where it will be a substitute for fuel, producer gas, liquid petroleum gas and paraffin. A source says the project will show a good return even at low current crude prices of about R7/liter a barrel.

Natural gas could supply 25% to 30% of SA's energy needs. In cases, natural gas supplies 45% of domestic energy.

The SA government will be involved in the project as contracts will have to be signed with the Mozambican government.

Taxes are proceeding on how best to structure the deal, and there are also ongoing attempts to attract a big international player into the project.

The World Bank is expected to produce a project information document within the next few weeks.

The project investigation has led to concern in SA industry circles that the feasibility studies have been conducted on the current high gas prices in SA. But Sasol says these prices are not artificially high.

Industry sources say gas prices are at least twice the international average as the government prohibits LPG imports. LPG prices are linked to producer gas prices.

Sasol says pricing is coupled to 93 octane fuel as LPG is converted to petrol to maintain the LPG demand supply balance.

Sasol reportedly earned R100-million profit from gas sales last year. It says its wholly-owned company, Gaskor, is a Section 21 non-profit company.

It is understood that the pricing structure for the Pande project is still to be determined.

Eskom has been approached to build a power station in Maputo that will use Pande gas, but it has a huge over-capacity, and sees the project as unlikely.

PetroSA, which operates pipelines in SA for Transnet, says it is not involved in the Pande project.

The Central Energy Fund's Danie Vorster says: "Apart from commercial services supplied by Seekor when the Pande 11 well was drilled, CEF or any of its subsidiaries are not involved in the Pande Gas Project."

AECI spokesman Robbie Vermont says they are not involved but "should gas from the fields become available, AECI would most likely be in the market to purchase some of it."

Sasol says it is meeting with its Pande partners is to be held this month.
MAPUTO — A key Mozambican government minister in negotiations with the Renamo opposition says the peace process is not yet irreversible and conditions for multiparty elections have yet to be established.

"Optimistic declarations, without anything on the ground to justify that optimism, are nothing more than propaganda for the international press," said labour minister Mr Teodato Hunguana in a two-page interview in yesterday's issue of the Maputo weekly Domingo.

Hunguana, a member of the government team which negotiated the 1992 peace agreement with Renamo rebels that ended 16 years of civil war, was apparently referring to optimistic comments last month by the UN special representative in Mozambique, Mr Aldo Ajello.

Irreversible process

Ajello said the peace process was irreversible and the October 1994 target for the country's first multiparty elections was now "more realistic than had been thought."

But Hunguana, who is still a senior negotiator in continuing talks with Renamo, said appropriate conditions for October elections had not yet been established.

"We have a lot to do to set up those conditions. Let us not deceive ourselves. We are way behind schedule, and we need to create the conditions that would make elections possible in October," he said.

The alternative would be to hold elections "in any old way, regardless of the real situation on the ground."

"We have to hold elections, but it can't be in a disorganised manner," he said.

Hunguana was warned at the slow pace of gathering government and Renamo forces in UN-run assembly points spread throughout Mozambique.

So far only about 2,000 men are in the assembly points, out of a total of 80,000 who must pass through them. This number was merely symbolic, said Hunguana.

"Right now, we don't need signs or symbols. We need facts that make the peace process irreversible."

He said those in the South African military, who controlled Renamo through the 1980s, might still be interested in destabilising Mozambique.

Despite assurances to the contrary, the Mozambican peace process is not yet irreversible, says a minister handling government negotiations with the Renamo opposition. Sapa-Reuter reports:

"Those forces, which waged the war from South Africa, who used Mozambicans as their instruments to wage war, have not been completely disarmed or neutralised," he said.

"They still exist. We look at South Africa and we see that they are the same forces who are disturbing the process of normalisation within South Africa itself." — Sapa-Reuter.
4 581 Renamo come in

M Maputo — The Mozambican government sent only one soldier to UN-run assembly points over the weekend compared to 410 by the former rebel movement Renamo, UN officials said yesterday.

The UN peacekeeping operation in Mozambique said in a statement there were now a total of 8,300 government troops and 4,581 Renamo guerrillas in the assembly points set up under the terms of an October 1992 peace agreement which ended a 16-year war between the government and Renamo.

The agency said over the New Year weekend 410 Renamo guerrillas arrived at the assembly points.

The organisation said the eventual aim is to bring in a total of 61,098 soldiers and 19,140 former rebels, on their way either to demobilisation or to incorporation in a 30,000-man unified defence force, before multiparty elections next October.

The first assembly points opened at the end of November and initially the government moved its men into them at a faster rate than Renamo — Saps-Reuter
Radio Pretoria hears govt ruling today

THE right-wing radio station Radio Pretoria would hear today whether its temporary licence granted last month was to be extended, a government official said yesterday.

The official said the station had applied to have its licence, which expires at midnight tonight, extended.

He said a meeting would take place between government officials and the station today, and a decision was expected to be announced this afternoon.

Last year right-wingers responded to a call to protect the station after government threatened to send in technicians to shut down the transmitter.

More than 200 armed men made themselves available to guard the station, which was surrounded by barbed wire and fortified.

Last week station head Mossie van den Berg appealed for proponents of free speech to support the station's attempts to continue its broadcasts.

Right-wing organisations said at the weekend they would support the station if it continued to broadcast in defiance of government if an extension of its licence was refused.

The Pretoria Boerekommando and other organisations pledged their support for the station.

Afrikaner Volksfront spokesman Steve Manninger said the station should be allowed to continue operating.

It had become "an emotional issue that had to be handled with sensitivity".

If government wanted to defuse tensions, it should allow it to operate legitimately, he said.

Volkstaat talks with ANC 'treason'

THE far right-wing Boere Weerstandsbewegung (BWB) said yesterday it would fight any agreement on a volkstaat that did not conform to the boundaries of the old Boer republics.

BWB leader Andrew Ford said the organisation would regard any agreement negotiated by the Afrikaner Volksfront with the ANC as "treason".

The Volkstaat's volkstaat boundaries were an unacceptable compromise, he said. Ford said the BWB rejected attempts to create "white islands in a black sea".

The Volkstaat wants to create a volkstaat incorporating large areas of the Transvaal but excluding much of the PWV area and the Free State.

Ford said Afrikanders had a historical claim on the entire Free State and Transvaal and sections of northern Natal.

Ford said the Volkstaat claimed at its launch that it would fight for the rights of Afrikanders, but was now backtracking by talking to the ANC.

Sapa reports Ford said such plans would amount to treason, equal to that of government against the Boer nation.

The Boer republics belonged to the Boer nation and right-wingers would not negotiate for something they already owned, said Ford.

The BWB and Boer nation would die to maintain ownership of the Boer republics.

The Volkstaat's claim that it was talking only to nationalists in the ANC, and not communists, was beyond comprehension.

Ford added that BWB members who had been part of the Volkstaat had withdrawn their membership.

The BWB itself had never been part of the Volkstaat.

Volkstaat spokesman Steve Manninger dismissed Ford's accusations.

He said yesterday the Volkstaat "would never negotiate away the rights of the Afrikaners".

On the road to recovery

MAPUTO - Mozambique was well on the road to recovery from years of famine caused by war and drought, the UN World Food Programme director in Mozambique told yesterday's Noticias daily paper.

WFP director Phillip Clarke said that "with goodwill and lasting peace, Mozambique is on the way to recovering".

Clarke said that last year Mozambique reaped its first improved harvest for many years, gathering 335 000 tons of maize compared to just 135 000 tons in 1992.

UN figures suggested over 1,5 million people of nearly 5 million needing food aid in 1992 were now able to support themselves.

Nonetheless, with Mozambique still in transition and after two years of severe drought from 1991-92, it would still need 790 000 tons of cereal imports to feed its 15 million people in the 1993/94 commercial year, according to the WFP.

— Sapa-AFP

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

ONE OF THE GREAT JOYS IN LIFE IS SLIDING ON AN ICE SKATING RINK.
Maputo wary of SA fiddles

Sowetan Africa News Service

MAPUTO - Forces inside South Africa may still be backing Renamo and peace is not yet irreversible, a senior Mozambican minister has warned in an interview in the Maputo Sunday paper Domngo.

Labour Minister Teodato Hunguana, a key member of the government team that negotiated the 1992 peace accord with Renamo, warned that "there is still no evidence that Renamo has weaned itself away from dependence on foreign forces, that it is carrying out Mozambican strategies determined by itself."

He said those elements in the South African military who had backed Renamo throughout the 1980s may still be interested in destabilising Mozambique.

"Those forces which waged the war from inside South Africa, those forces which used Mozambicans as their instruments, are not completely disarmed or neutralised," he said. "They still exist. If we look at South Africa we see that they are the same forces that are disturbing the process of normalisation there, too."

The obstacles in South Africa's path to democracy "cannot be viewed just as difficulties for South Africa," said Hunguana. "They are difficulties that are part of a regional process."

Flashback: Renamo used children as young as 10 years to wage war against the Frelimo government which says Renamo is still not committed to peace.
The daily struggle to survive

Mozambique inches toward peace, grinding poverty threatens rioting

**Government and Renamo bicker at every turn in transition:**

**Nervous times** Diplomats watch nervously as government and Renamo bicker at every turn in transition:

President Machel and his wife, Mozambique's liberation fighter, have stopped fighting but tensions remain high. The two nations are struggling to overcome their differences and move forward.

Desperate crowds voted this week in the capital Maputo, where unemployment rates have doubled from 10 years ago. Inflation has reached 100%, and many Mozambicans are struggling to make ends meet.

Inflation:

- 100% inflation
- Over 50% unemployment

The government acccuses Renamo of endangering the peace process.

**Deans Summer Sale**

- **Suits** were up to R899.99
- **Top Label** were up to R499.95
- **Famous Name** were up to R899.95
- **Sports Shirts** were up to R999.99
- **T-Shirts** were up to R99.99
- **Sports Jackets** were up to R699.95
- **Formal Trouser** were up to R149.95
- **Famous Name Lounge Shirts** were up to R499.95
- **T-Shirts** were up to R45.00
- **Shoes** up to HALF PRICE!

*See also page 10.*
Developers take critical look at Mozambique

By Robyn Chalmers

South African developers have targeted Mozambique for eco-tourism and hotel projects as the country edges towards peace.

Group Five Property Development MD Colin Taylor said the organisation had talked to the Mozambique government about putting together a tourist-related project.

"There are about 9,000 UN operatives in Mozambique, working to demobilise Renamo and Frelimo soldiers. They have taken up all available hotel space which is up to Western standards."

"As a result, there are opportunities for new hotel developments which we are considering."

"However, there are still major obstacles in terms of infrastructure which need to be overcome."

The Polana Hotel in Maputo was the only hotel which was in line with Western standards, but its rates were comparatively high.

Taylor said, as a developer, Group Five would consider putting together a deal involving a financier, operator and contractor, but nothing concrete had yet been decided on.

Group Five chairman Theuns Kotze said the organisation kept an eye on various southern African countries to ascertain their potential.

City Lodge financial director Bill Dickson said the group had visited Mozambique to look at the potential of the region, but had not yet considered investing.

Dickson said the country was not yet stable and there were infrastructural deficiencies such as electricity and water supply.
600 Renamo soldiers quit assembly camps

MAPUTO — More than 600 Renamo guerrillas on Tuesday abandoned two UN supervised assembly points where they had gathered under a Mozambican peace agreement. UN officials said yesterday.

The UN-chartered joint ceasefire commission heard about the flight of the guerrillas when it met in Maputo on Tuesday to try to resolve food and logistical problems at assembly points.

No official explanation was immediately available for the guerrillas’ decision to leave the two assembly points, but officials said those who left made up less than half the number gathered in the two overcrowded camps and said they left unarmed.

The Maputo daily Noticias said the exodus was caused precisely by the problems the committee was meeting to discuss: inadequate diet and logistical difficulties.

A spokesman for the UN operation in Mozambique said an investigation into the incident had been ordered.

The assembly points in question are Chiramba, on the south bank of the Zambezi, and Magunde, in the southern part of Sofala.

The camps were designed for 500 men, but on Monday each was holding over 800, the Mozambique News Agency reported. UN officials said 400 men left Chiramba and 200 abandoned Magunde. They did not take their weapons with them.

When the fighters check in at assembly points they must surrender their weapons to UN military observers. Firearms and ammunition are then stored in locked containers under UN protection.

More than 8000 government soldiers and 4000 guerrillas have gone to assembly points since they opened on November 30 last year.

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama has claimed that his men in the assembly points are going hungry and that he was moved to tears when he visited Chiramba on December 28.

But according to UN official Gerald Backley, the supplies provided by the UN World Food Programme to the assembly points were increased by between 25% and 50%, depending on the items concerned, on December 1.

Every fighter in the assembly area now receives a daily ration including 333g of maize flour and 200g of rice, beans or peas and vegetable oil and sugar.

This is more than the ration distributed to destitute peasants under Mozambique’s emergency programme — Sapa-Reuter.
Mozambique back on road to recovery

AFRICA NEWS SERVICE

Maputo — The rebuilding of Mozambique’s economy from the wreckage of a decade of Marxism is going well, says the World Bank’s representative in Mozambique, Roberto Chaves.

Chaves told the Maputo daily newspaper Notícias that the five percent increase recorded last year in gross domestic product (GDP) was likely to be repeated this year.

The increase last year was the first in four years.

It suggests that the hardships imposed on Mozambicans by the economic reconstruction programme are beginning to pay off.

Last year was the first full year of peace in Mozambique since the civil war began shortly after independence in 1975.

The command economy enforced by the Frelimo government at independence was abandoned after about 10 years, when Mozambique had been made the world’s poorest country by the policy, exacerbated by drought, flood and war.
Demob delays casting shadow over poll

There is growing concern in the UN operation in Mozambique (Onumoz) at the slow pace of the troop demobilisation that must precede the October elections. More than 80,000 troops of both the Mozambican government and Renamo rebels are supposed to gather at UN-run assembly points prior to their demobilisation or incorporation into a unified force.

But since the first 20 points were opened at the end of November only 8,336 government troops and 5,336 Renamo fighters have showed up.

Figures released by Onumoz show that, after a reasonably good start in early December, the movement of government troops has slowed to a trickle. Since January 1 only 58 government soldiers have arrived at the 21 points now open for them. Particularly worrying is the fact that eight of the government assembly points are still completely empty.

Renamo has done much better since the new year, sending 1,167 troops to 13 out of the 14 assembly points available for it. The Renamo assembly points are now operating at 70 percent of their capacity, the government's at only 33 percent.

But under the timetable for demobilisation approved in October, all 48 planned assembly points should have been opened by the end of the year, and should have been full.

In fact, 14 assembly points have not even opened. In one case, there are serious political difficulties. Renamo wants to use an abandoned state farm at Salamanga, in the far south of the country, as an assembly point but the government objects, saying Renamo occupied the farm illegally after the signing of the October 1992 peace agreement. It is demanding that Renamo withdraw, and that only after withdrawal should the UN-chaired Ceasefire Commission consider a Renamo request to use the farm.

The slow pace of assembling the troops threatens to underestimate the timetable for demobilisation. Five percent of the troops should be demobilised this month, while several thousand others should be channelled to training centres to form the first infantry battalions of the new joint army. So far it is doubtful whether there are enough troops in assembly points to ensure this can be done.

The first 540 instructors for the new army (half from the government and half from Renamo) returned on Wednesday from Zimbabwe where they had undergone a gruelling training course run by a British military team. And unless the bottlenecks in the assembly points are sorted out quickly, these instructors may soon find themselves with nobody to train.

Any delays in demobilisation and in forming the new army will impact on the election timetable. The government, Renamo and Onumoz are all agreed that there can be no election until there is just one army.

The agreed timetable envisages completing demobilisation by May and having the new army fully operational by the end of August. The election campaign is supposed to begin on September 1, with presidential and parliamentary elections in mid-October.

Delays could have serious financial consequences. A delegation of US Congressmen visiting Mozambique this week warned that, if the elections were postponed the US might end its funding of Onumoz.

Since the US provides 30 percent of Onumoz funds this would severely curtail the UN operation — Star Africa Service.
Renamo threat to halt demob

Maputo — The leader of Mozambique’s armed opposition warned yesterday that he would halt the country’s military demobilisation process unless the government explained why its own troops were not moving into assembly points.

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama said: “On Saturday I will paralyse everything if there is no explanation from President Chissano.

UN peacekeeping officials have grown increasingly concerned as the movement of government troops into UN-run assembly areas has slowed to a trickle.

Under the peace accord, all government and Renamo troops should have assembled by now.

But only 19 percent of government soldiers have moved to assembly areas, against 55 percent of Renamo’s soldiers.

Mozambique’s highest peacekeeping body, the Supervision and Control Committee, was to meet under UN chairmanship yesterday to ask the government to explain the slow assembly of its troops — Sapa-APP.
Maputo makes troops pledge

Maputo — The Mozambican government has promised to speed up the movement of its troops to United Nations-run assembly points.

This follows a warning by Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama that he would stop the process unless the government explained the slow movement of its troops to the assembly points.

Deputy Minister of Planning Tomas Salomao said orders had already gone out to all provincial military commanders.

The pledge came after a meeting on Tuesday of the body controlling the peace process, the UN-chaired Supervisory and Control Commission.

In the first 16 days of this month only 66 government soldiers arrived at the assembly points, as against 1,636 Renamo fighters.

Camps

On the first two days of this week, however, more than 300 government troops reported.

In percentage terms, the government is lagging far behind Renamo. The 6,227 men in Renamo’s 14 assembly points represent 81 percent of its capacity, while the 8,765 government troops who have so far arrived represent only 36 percent of its army.
Warning against forcing soldiers

Argus African News Service

MAPUTO — The United Nations Special Representative in Mozambique, Aldo Ajello, has warned that if Renamo and Frelimo forced their soldiers to be part of the new Unified Defence Force, it would create "major problems."

He was responding to reports that some camp commanders in the assembly points were telling their soldiers not to respond to the UN registration form question on whether they wanted to join the new defence force or not.

Mr Ajello said that if such forced recruiting was taking place, it was "shortsighted."

"If you force people to join they will be discontented and will be troublemakers," he said.

He argued that while a properly-trained and well-paid army could be a guarantee of democracy, "a bad army is just a source of trouble and destabilisation."

A string of mutinies in the government army this month adds weight to Mr Ajello's warning.

The latest incident happened last week in the town of Magude, where a supposedly elite commando unit mutinied for the second time in a week, demanding payment of a New Year bonus, equivalent to an extra month's wages

Residents fled into the bush following indiscriminate rifle and mortar fire by the mutineers.

Implementation of the Peace Agreement between the government and Renamo is once again falling behind schedule, but Mr Ajello thought the delays would not threaten the October date for general elections.
Renamo gets "400 000
(R2.8 million), to the
United Nations-managed fund set up
to help the Renamo movement transform
itself from a military organisation, the
Dutch embassy announced.

This is the first half of payments promised under agreements signed with the
UN last year.
The only other country that has contributed to the fund is Italy, which provided $59.6 million.
(R19.72 million). The
Fund's target is
$160 million (R34
million).
Army is key to peace

Officers and non-coms will be out of job, but not out of work, for peace process may settle the Troubles in London

Another diplomat says: 'The finding of a solution to the Troubles will require a major effort by all parties. The process may not be easy, but it is necessary for the future of Northern Ireland.'

A more immediate financial problem facing the government is the cost of maintaining the army. The army's role has changed from a purely military one to a more administrative one, with the army playing a key role in the peace process.

The cost of maintaining the army is estimated to be around £1 billion per year. This cost is shared by the government and the Unionists, with the government paying the majority of the bill.

However, the government is under pressure to reduce the army's role in the peace process. Some Unionists believe that the army is too powerful and that it should be reduced in size.

But the government is determined to maintain the army's role in the peace process. The government believes that the army is essential for maintaining law and order in Northern Ireland.

The army is also playing a key role in the peace process by providing security for the talks between the government and the Unionists. The army has been involved in providing security for the talks since the beginning of the peace process.

The army's role in the peace process has been a controversial one. Some Unionists believe that the army is too powerful and that it should be reduced in size. But the government is determined to maintain the army's role in the peace process. The government believes that the army is essential for maintaining law and order in Northern Ireland.
Revive

Financial transformation of Mozambique

Leslie Crawford

(211) 470-3124
Maputo in accord

Maputo — Mozambican government and former Renamo rebels have named one officer each to the supreme command of a joint new national army to replace the two opposing forces the government's choice of Bungane Langa Lhade, and Renamo's Lieutenant-General Mateus Ngonyamo must still be approved by the Supervisory Control Commission (CSC) responsible to oversee the peace process enshrined in the Lusaka agreement. As the 19-year civil war, the daily Noticias said on Saturday, National liberation Lirimo (44) joined the Frelimo liberation army fighting for national independence from Portugal at 16 and later directed the military council intelligence as well as commanding other government units. Ngonyamo (30) joined the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo) in 1978 and was commander in the southern region. He was a lieutenant at age 44. He is also Renamo's chief delegate on the joint commission for the formation of the Armed Defence Forces of Mozambique, the new army — Sapo-AFP
Renamo chief to visit SA leaders

MABUTO — Head of Mozambique's Renamo opposition, Alfonso Dhlakama, was due to visit South Africa today for talks with political leaders.

Mr. Dhlakama said here he would meet President De Klerk, ANC, foreign affairs spokesman Thabo Mbeki and leading members of the IFP.

The head of the former rebel said, "after years of propaganda against us, it's very important these parties get to know Renamo well."

"I hope to learn how they are conducting elections, what the outcome might be, and to make business contact."

Pretoria formally trained and funded Renamo but after President De Klerk took office relations between Renamo and the government cooled.

Leaders of both the National Party and the ANC have expressed deep concern at arms trafficking from Mozambique, which they say is contributing to increasing violence in South Africa.

Mr. Dhlakama declares Renamo's key problem now is lack of financial support to turn itself from a guerrilla group into a political party and he will no doubt be looking for South African support — Sapa-AFP.
Maputo and Renamo dragging their feet

MAPUTO — Mozambique’s government and Renamo are still delaying demobilisation of their armies despite growing international concern, local news reports indicated yesterday.

The government has speeded up movement of its troops into assembly areas after criticism by UN peacekeepers last month, but figures show it is still lagging behind Renamo.

The UN says 19,943 government troops, just 33% of the 60,000 soldiers expected, have arrived in the camps.

Renamo, meanwhile, has assembled 9,908 soldiers, making up 22% of its total force, the UN says.

Foreign diplomats say the government has failed to give a credible explanation for the delay.

But the government says it is keen to start demobilising the soldiers assembled so far and has presented lists of names to the committees responsible for implementing the country’s 1992 peace accord.

Renamo seems reluctant to make any similar move before the government increases the percentage of its troops in the assembly areas. — Xapta-APP.
Police clash with rebel militiamen

Maputo — Police fought with militiamen who refused to surrender their weapons in terms of the Mozambique peace accord unless they were given money.

After 20 of the militiamen had been arrested in the fracas in the central town of Marracuene on Tuesday, the others withdrew from the town and occupied a position about 20 km away. Militiamen from other parts of the district were reported heading there to join them.

Sixteen people were hurt, four seriously, when the militiamen resisted police efforts to disarm them.

The trouble began last Sunday when about 500 militiamen, demanding money in return for their guns, fired into the air and beat up several people, including the district police chief.

On Tuesday the provincial police commander went to Marracuene from Beira and ordered the men to use force to disarm the rebels.
Mozambique roads cleared

MAPUTO, Sept 12-The UN's World Food Programme has invested about $10m in opening clearing and repairing roads in war-ravaged Mozambique.

Programme operations director Philip Clarke said yesterday the work being done mainly in the Sofala province was helping to clear unexploded mines.

He said 145km of the Macossa-Marungue road was being levelled. Water drainage was being built and three bridges rehabilitated.

When finished, the road would allow the UN to continue its airlift to deliver food aid to about 15,000 people living in rebel Renamo headquarters at Marungue and to transport food more cheaply by truck.

The Gorongosa-Casa Banana road had almost been completed up to the Nhundugue River, where four bridges would be built.

Repairs to 130km of the Inhambinga-Dondo road would begin on Monday, and work would start on the final leg of the road between Nhundugue River and Casa Banana once it had been cleared of mines.

Sapa (2.18)
UN to send Mozambicans home faster

HARARE — UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata began a four-nation southern African tour in Zimbabwe yesterday to help speed up the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans.

The 12-day regional trip will take her to refugee camps in Zimbabwe, SA and Swaziland where her organization is preparing to send home victims of Mozambique's civil war, which ended two years ago.

Ogata will also fly to Mozambique to see how some former refugees have settled in the country, emerging from the brutal 16-year war.

She was scheduled to meet a number of Zimbabwean government leaders, including Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira and President Robert Mugabe yesterday.

The UNHCR says it wants to expedite the repatriation of more than 140,000 Mozambican refugees from Zimbabwe which was slowed down since a year ago by the need to clear landmines in Mozambique and to provide adequate food for the returnees.

Ogata flies to eastern Zimbabwe today to bid farewell to hundreds of Mozambicans returning home.

“After her regional tour we can expect the process to pick up speed,” the UNHCR has been mobilising resources to help the refugees settle,” a UNHCR official said.

Besides SA, Zimbabwe and Swaziland, there are also Mozambican refugees in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

All these countries hosted more than 1.7 million refugees at the end of the Mozambican civil war which pit- ted the government against the former rebel Renamo movement.

More than 300,000 refugees had already returned home under the UNHCR programme or on their own.

The repatriation programme is expected to cost $200m.

In Zimbabwe, Ogata will visit one of five camps housing 140,000 Mozambicans and send off a UN-sponsored repatriation convoy headed across the border to Dar es Salaam in the central Manica province.

Earlier this month, the UN appealed for $102m needed to repatriate 600,000 refugees from the six countries neighbouring Mozambique during the dry season.

The three-year programme to send home 1.7-million Mozambicans is the largest repatriation exercise ever undertaken in Africa.

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Sapa-AP
Report denies border will be electrified

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — The South African government will not re-electrify the fence along the Mozambique-South Africa border, according to the independent news sheet Mediafax.

Mediafax reports that military officials have been putting pressure on President De Klerk to switch on the current to curb the flow of illegal weapons into South Africa.

The South African government denied it had anything to do with leaflets dropped by a South African police aircraft over the border town of Ressano Garcia on February 19 warning that the fence would be re-electrified.

An embassy spokesman said the matter was being discussed by the two governments.
Pictures by

MIKE MZILEN

HOMEWARD BOUND ... These were some of the sights

exhilarated kids and parents — all heading home.

reunited with their women with babies breast-fed to breast-

s freeze of the UH-sponsored mass replication of Mozart's

CITY PRESS MARCH 6, 1994

white page (218)
By PEARL RANTSEKENG

SHE’S black, she teaches Afrikaans and deep down she’s famous and bitter. Teacher Charlotte Ngobeni thought that with the new SA just around the corner the time was right for her and her two kids to move into a formerly ‘whites-only’ suburb in Pretoria.

She was wrong. White racists — probably with AWB sympathies — bombed her home and frightened her kids nearly out of their wits.

They left a sticker behind (see inset above)

Now Ngobeni is moving out again — back to Soshangwane — precisely the kind of apartheid suburb her bombers desired.

But the J Kekana High teacher is adamant that she is not afraid of the racist attackers — she simply says she doesn’t want her kids to suffer any more trauma or serious harm just so that they can live in a nice suburb.

Ngobeni, a 32-year-old single mother, bought a house in Silverton’s Extension Five and moved in with her two kids.

It was a Sunday and that afternoon had gone well.

She told City Press:

‘Immediately after arriving our opposite neighbour put up two AWB flags I didn’t take that seriously.

She said she and her visitors just went on with their chores in the new home.

Ngobeni’s youngest son, Marvin, 8, said: ‘While we were playing the children from the house where they had put up the flags were sitting in a tree looking at us.

One of the children pointed a gun at us. I don’t know whether it was a toy gun or what I told my mother about this and she said we must come and play inside the house.

Ngobeni continued: ‘My visitors left late in the evening and we went to sleep. Just as we switched off our lights, at around 11, I was woken up by a loud sound. At first I thought it was a gun, but as I rushed towards the kitchen I was confronted by a huge flame. My sister was in the lounge watching television and she saw a huge flame of fire coming from the dinning room window. We extinguished the fire and went outside but by the time we got there, there was no one there.

She said she woke her children and prayed to the Lord to help them. Then she went to phone the police who responded immediately.

Said Ngobeni: ‘When I prayed I asked the Lord to help us take the devil away and bring the angels around us.

She said when the police arrived they asked her if she thought the bombers were blacks.

She said that outside the house they found two petrol bombs that hadn’t exploded. Two petrol bombs exploded inside.

When City Press visited Ngobeni on Tuesday she found her busy moving back to Soshangwane.

She said she felt it was not safe for her to stay in Silverton — the house was ‘not worth dying for’.

She said she would have stayed if the police had promised her protection but they are just saying that they are still investigating the matter.

‘When I did my honours degree at the University of Pretoria I met some nice boers, and I had the impression that they had changed but I was wrong. I want to say to those who did this to me it’s people like you who need Apla’.

While we were talking her white neighbour and an African man from the next street came to sympathise with Ngobeni.

Diederik Lebene, a pensioner said he had been staying in the area for the past seven months and had no problems.

The white neighbour, who asked not to be named, pleased with Ngobeni to stay. She said: ‘This is a very quiet area and I believe that the people who did this were not from this street.’

SHOCKED... Charlotte Ngobeni and her kids. She doesn’t think it’s worth it to live under threat in a white suburb.
BY LEN KALANE

THE GREAT TREK is preceded by the night of the long wake. The wait ends at the crack of dawn when the trucks roar out, of the refugee camp, heading for Mozambique, their home.

Home! Most of the refugees have not set foot in Mozambique in the past ten years.

Some left Mozambique as little children with their parents to escape the war when Mozambican refugees began to enter Zimbabwe in 1982 and 1983. Now they are heading back home as adults—to an uncertain future and a devastated country.

They are joined by new kids born in the camps, kids oblivious to the situation in their own country or what the fuss over repatriation is all about.

They’re all going home, to the landmines, the stench of death, devastation, confusion and destruction, destroyed roads, bridges, schools and health facilities, which collapsed in the wake of the Renamo onslaught.

Yet the group of about 900 leaving the Tongogara refugee camp in Zimbabwe’s Manica province—the biggest and best—kept of five camps in the country—all seemed happy. East or west, home is best.

We visited the refugees—now to be known as the returnees—the night before their departure from Tongogara, where 3,441 refugees are based.

The scatterings here—part of the 135,044 refugee population in Zimbabwe—form a closely-knit community in their own right, almost a state within a state.

Twelve trucks had been lined up to take away the 300 returnees to Decata, one of the areas in Mozambique already cleared for safe passage.

It is the night of the long wake. With it comes the traditional home-going rituals, merry-making, dancing, beer drinking and singing—a gripping atmosphere of happiness and contentment, something akin to the Last Supper. For tomorrow they will be home-bound—hopefully never to return.

The women ululate and the uchuns gyrate fearlessly to the pulsating beat of traditional drums. One moment they go down their knees, the next they hit the ground with a full-belly impact—an exciting dance routine, not for the faint-hearted.

Tomorrow they will head for Mozambique, one of the most unpredictable of war-ravaged places. A fragile peace pact prevails in this drought-stricken country of hopelessness and despair, its roads strewn with killer landmines.

Hopefully, October will change all this into prospects of hope and a bright future. The national elections—the country’s first elections in a democratic sense—are scheduled for not later than October. The bulk of the refugees have to be back in Mozambique in time for this—and for the planting season which normally starts in September.

The people at Tongogara realise the importance of their votes. They are eager to return home and shape the course of history—and start life anew.

There is more ululating and gyration at Tongogara the next morning, the day of the departure. The drum beats are loud and so are the cheers and it is hard to say whether this is being stage-managed for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, who was to visit town that morning.

This will be the first leg of Ogata’s twelve-day four-nation tour in southern Africa which will include Swaziland, South Africa and Mozambique itself. She will observe the progress of the Mozambican repatriation operation.

Now the frail-looking Ogata has come to Tongogara to see off the 300-old returnees to the land of the unknown and uncertainty. The cream of UNHCR trucks rumble through the camp’s dusty streets. Hands are waving everywhere, the have of children and women, and Ogata waves back.

Then the mighty trucks jerk into top gear, roaring out of the camp with their singing human cargo and their meagre possessions.

The sight leaves a lump in one’s throat. For good or for bad, the wholesale removal of human beings has always been a tough business—and, for a South African journalist, it is reminiscent of the tragic period of forced removals under the programme of grand apartheid.

Yet this is the best part of Ogata’s job, she tells us later. “Seeing refugees heading back home. Seeing the happy faces and knowing that they are going home. Home to peace and a better life.”

Ogata said they had had only few problems of refugees coming back after they had been repatriated. But then it was no longer a refugee problem, she said, but an immigration problem.

“They usually go home never to return.”

One of the men in the refugee camps, 38-year-old Luke James, who fled Mozambique with his ageing mother at the height of the war, weeps as the trucks disappear.

And his mother are the only survivors of a family of seven—the others were wiped out by Renamo.

“I long for home,” he says. “Life is fine here at the camp, sometimes even better than life back home. But I want to go back as soon as there is peace.”

Politics are not his game. All he wants is to be home and start farming again.

So far about 11,000 refugees have been repatriated in what is believed to be the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ largest repatriation programme in Africa. The UNHCR has asked for US$102.8 million to cover the costs of transportation and resettlement.

This year the UNHCR aims to voluntarily repatriate over 600,000 refugees from Zimbabwe to Mozambique “in safety and dignity.” The repatriation is expected to be completed by mid-1995 in all five refugee camps.

The repatriation operation for the 1.5 million Mozambicans in six southern African countries follows a peace agreement in Rome between the Mozambican government and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (Renamo) in October 1992 in Rome. This ended a 15-year-old war.

Most of the returnees come from Malawi, host of the largest group of refugees, 650,000 as of January 1. South Africa, 250,000, Zimbabwe, 100,000, Zambia, 22,000 Tanzania, 20,000 and Swaziland, 18,000.

MOVES... UNHCR head Sadako Ogata and King Mswati of Swaziland held talks.
Mozambique told to have unified army before poll

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity Salim Ahmed Salim warned that a unified Mozambican army should be in place before the October elections.

Speaking at the end of a five-day visit to Mozambique in which he had talks with political leaders and visited United Nations-run assembly points, Mr Salim said: "You can have a multiparty system, but you can't have a multi-army system."

"All the ingredients for peace are present (in Mozambique) The antagonists of the past have reconciled themselves to the need for peace."

Mr Salim said there was great expectation for peace among soldiers at the assembly points, where government and Renamo troops are gathering to be either demobilised or recruited into the new army.

He said the problems in implementing the 1992 peace accord were not political, but technical and logistical.
ies found in ‘House of horror’ ● Massacre in Burundi

Unified army a must before polls

Sowetan Africa News Service

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He said “All the ingredients for peace (in Mozambique) are present. The antagonists of the past have reconciled themselves to the need for peace.”

According to Salim, there was a great expectation for peace among the soldiers at the assembly points, where government and Renamo troops are gathering to be either demobilised or recruited into the new army.

“Our responsibility is to satisfy this expectation and to ensure that peace is permanent.”

He said the problems in implementing the 1992 peace accord were not political, but were technical and logistical. He said he had urged the donor community to continue supporting the process.

Asked whether Mozambique would slide back into war as Angola had done, Salim said no one could give any guarantees, but that he had found the dialogue between Mozambique President Joaquin Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama “very reassuring”.

Salim said the OAU would participate fully in observing the elections.
Starvation fuels a growing tide of desperate refugees

By ROGER MAKUGA

IN A barbed-wire enclosure at Macadamia military base, 17-year-old Jaime Xilindzio, barefoot, his clothes little more than rags, contemplates a future that at best is bleak, at worst hopeless.

A day's trek from Xilindzio's home in Mozambique through mud-clogged bush brought him to the border town of Musambane where the starving teenager - he had been on the road for three days - clung to the torn netting of a corrugated tin roof to be heard by anyone who might be passing. He said he was too hungry to go on and told the reporter that he had been on the road for days and nights and was desperate to find something to eat.

Starvation has caused the death of at least 100 people in the region, and more are feared dead, as hundreds of thousands of people are forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in South Africa.

Jaime said hunger drove him to seek food in search of food and maybe a job in SA. He wants to unite with his father somewhere in Johannesburg.

Jaime's story is typical of thousands of Mozambicans who have crammed into the Transvaal in search of jobs and who will work on farms for as little as R1 a day to keep body and soul together.

If they are lucky they remain undetected long enough to build up a stake - enough for a taxi ride to the PTA area - where they will disappear.

Reed-thin Sabino, 16, from Mozambique, says he doesn't know how long he's been in the country, but he works at a farm and says he earns R2 a day.

One consolation for the shift workers is that they often get food and accommodation. But others, who work on the streets, are not so lucky.

The raids on the area have been blamed for the increase in crime, with a rise in arrests for theft and robbery.

A recent raid on a farm near Musambane left a man dead and another seriously injured.

In another incident, a group of armed men burst into a house and shot dead a woman and her two children.

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Crime profits as Mozambique recovers

By LESLIE CRAWFORD

SMUGGLED (ISSUE 2/5)
Mozambican troops want out

By SCOTT PETERSON in Maputo

REBEL and government soldiers in Mozambique are so tired of war after a generation of fighting among themselves and their Portuguese colonisers that they are unlikely to come up with enough men to form a new joint army, which the United Nations has targeted to be 30,000-strong.

Provisions of a UN-arranged peace deal signed in October 1992 stipulate that nearly a third of Mozambique’s 100,000 soldiers from both sides would form the new army and the rest would be demobilised.

But as soldiers wait in UN-run cantonment sites to receive their pay-off, rations, civilian clothes and demobilisation cards, there is a growing feeling that unemployment is a better option than staying in uniform.

The Frelimo government plans to demobilise 80,000 soldiers, and the Renamo rebels 20,000. Each is expected to contribute 15,000 men to the new army, but will not be able to. The process is already a year behind schedule, forcing elections to be postponed until October.

The UN Special Representative for Mozambique, Dr Aldo Ajello, an Italian, said the problem was especially acute for the government, which had conscripted boys to fight the 16-year civil war. They had been “badly fed, badly paid and badly accommodated.”

“If they insist that people go on with the same army they have now, no one will accept. They need some new incentives,” he said.

Conditions for both sides during the civil war have been bad, and soon-to-be demobilised soldiers in UN cantonment areas have at times crouched and blocked access roads.

In November and December rebel Renamo leader Afonso Dhakama warned that he might lose control of his soldiers through lack of funds.

Referring threateningly to the example of Angola, where rebels restarted the civil war after rejecting a UN peace process, Mr Dhakama was able to squeeze concessions from the UN. Dr Ajello appealed for an unprecedented trust fund of $16 million to ease the rebel transition to opposition politics.

And instead of receiving just a six-month pay package from the government for each demobilised soldier, international donors have been persuaded by the UN to stump up $20 million more to provide 18 months’ more pay.

Mr Dhakama has done well himself, driving a bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz through the capital and living in the former EC representative’s mansion.

But in the bush, where there are believed still to be more than a million AK-47 assault rifles, euphoria of the peace has faded as delays mount. The first soldiers were demobilised last week, and the UN says – over-optimistically – that the job will have been completed by July.

“The concentration of these soldiers is potentially dangerous,” said UN spokesman Joso Albuquerque. “They don’t like it, so the government wants to get it done quickly as possible.”

Still, healing the scars left by the war is proving difficult, as rebels and government soldiers alike try to overcome memories of atrocities and consider a bleak future.

A government soldier who took part in a notorious Frelimo massacre at Monga in 1991, recalls the abuses by his men and his disgust for war. “If people left their local area and came to town, we thought they were Renamo. If they said something that wasn’t right, we tortured them until they said the right things,” he said.

– The Telegraph, London
Red faces for rebels over demob

Maguato - Reunno made an
embarrassment of his troop
with his demobilisation
over the first

Israelita, who was a

government forces began on
March 10.
Bitter pill helps Mozambique

ARUSHA—A Mozambique minister said at the weekend that painful economic reform programmes adopted at the insistence of international donors had helped lead the country to impressive growth.

Mozambican Finance Minister Eneas Comiche said the free movement of people and goods and better weather also helped increase the gross domestic product by 5.6% last year. He gave no comparative figures for the previous year.

Monetary and fiscal reforms and price measures since 1997 favoured private enterprise and led to impressive growth.

Speaking to African business leaders, he said the financial sector's competitiveness had increased because of a fall in inflation by 11 percentage points between December 1992 and December 1993 and the application of real interest rates.

He also credited having exchange rates determined by foreign currency supply and demand rather than fixed, and a growth in the number of secondary foreign exchange market traders, for his country's better performance.

He told an African Business Round Table forum at Arusha, northern Tanzania, that Mozambique had opened new banks and reduced tax rates.

He said authorised direct foreign investment had reached $600m — from Britain, Portugal, SA, the Netherlands and 23 African states. "Almost all sectors are eligible for private investment, except for certain areas reserved for the state."

The Mozambican government was privatising many state-linked companies. About 240 state companies had been restructured, with 95% of small and medium enterprises acquired by Mozambicans.

— Sapa-Reuters
An unwilling rebel

MAPUTO — Renamo made an embarrassing start to its troop demobilisation when the first soldier to be discharged turned out to be a juvenile who said he had been kidnapped and forced to fight in the rebel army.

The story told by 16-year-old Alberto Samuel to journalists covering the event contradicted Renamo’s frequent denials that it had forced kidnapped children to fight in its ranks. Alberto said he had been kidnapped when he was nine and had received military training at a Renamo base in Vilankulo district in Inhambane province. He had taken part in several military actions, he said.

When the war ended in 1992 Alberto would have been only 14.

His story came out when a journalist asked him if he planned to marry now that he was being demobilised.

“No, I’m still a child,” replied Alberto. A Renamo officer immediately ordered Alberto to stop speaking to the journalists but he was allowed to resume when a senior Renamo official intervened in response to the journalists’ protests.

Renamo leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama was as embarrassed as any of his officials by the incident. When asked about it by the journalists, he angrily replied: “I didn’t come here to speak about children. Whether he’s 14 or 30 years old is not the issue now.” — Agus Africa News Service
Maputo — A potentially serious obstacle to Mozambique's first multiparty general election has been overcome with agreement being reached on pay scales for the new joint army, the FADM.

The government had proposed that the basic wage for a private soldier should be the same as the national minimum industrial wage of 70,000 meticais (about R40) a month. Renamo proposals had ranged between 110,000 and 90,000 meticais a month. This week agreement was reached on the compromise figure of 80,000 meticais a month.
City set for refugee surge

Willem Steenkamp
Weekend Argus Reporter

HUNDREDS, possibly thousands, of political refugees from countries including Somalia, Zaire, Mozambique and Angola are streaming to South Africa following an agreement between the United Nations and the government.

And, many of these refugees are making their way to Cape Town because the city is relatively safe compared to other centres and also because word has spread that free accommodation is readily available here.

Senior immigration official Jaco Duckitt, known as "Mr Refugee" because of the work he does among refugees who arrive in Cape Town, said the numbers of refugees arriving had increased alarmingly.

"More than 10 refugees arrive in Cape Town a day. We already have more than 100 male Angolans - many with children and wives - in Cape Town. Where they previously arrived in dribs and drabs, they are now arriving in groups.

"We have about 35 refugees from Somalia and the number is increasing. Four from the Sudan, 15 from Zaire and we even have one from Liberia."

Mr Duckitt said an agreement was reached between the government and UN officials in September last year under which the government agreed to allow political refugees into South Africa.

Conditions were also set out under which people would qualify for refugee status.

Home Affairs officials get training from the UN on how to handle and process refugees.

Mr Duckitt said that under this system people first would be questioned as to their reasons for coming to South Africa. If they qualified as political refugees they would be given temporary permits to live and work here.

"We try to encourage political refugees to find work to support themselves and their families as there are no funds available from the government to support these people."

"These political refugees can later apply for political asylum. But, should the situation in their respective countries improve, we would ask them to be voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin. In such cases, we would supply them with some cash and a free ticket."

Mr Duckitt said that if political refugees refused to return voluntarily to their country of origin, steps would be taken against them under the Aliens Act.

"Many of the refugees that arrive in Cape Town find a haven at The Ark in Westlake, run by Pastor Greg Grobler. They stay free of charge. The Ark does not get any money from the government and is dependent solely on donations to do its work."

At The Ark many refugees learn basic skills such as carpentry, welding, panel-beating to enable them to support themselves.

As the word spread that under the UN agreement with the government political refugees would not be summarily returned to their countries of origin, the number of refugees has increased.

Mr Duckitt said he had been monitoring and processing political refugees under the new system for three weeks now. Since then, there had been a vast increase. Most of them fled their countries of origin because of political strife and war.
Renamo call for national unity

Maputo - Renamo leader, Afonso Dhakama, has called for a government of national unity in Mozambique, saying no single party was able to govern on its own at present.

Mr Dhakama said such a government should include political parties as well as competent individuals with no party affiliation.

He told the Maputo Sunday newspaper Domingo that he had discussed the concept with Western diplomats, who had endorsed it.

He said he had also raised it with Joaquim Chissano "and I got the impression he agrees with me."

But President Chissano has ruled out a coalition before the election in October "as it would defraud the voters."

He said the election results would determine who ruled and whether any form of coalition was required.

The few polls that have been done in Mozambique have given no clear indication of voter preferences.
25 000 refugees due to go home

Maputo — More than 25 000 refugees are preparing to return to Mozambique from Zimbabwe as part of an accelerated repatriation programme by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UNHCR in Zimbabwe said in a statement that it had undertaken voluntary repatriation in the refugee camps of Mavone, Nyamatikukut and Tongogara. Repatriation is due to take place between now and June.

Star Africa Service.
Renamo 'dirty tricks'

MAPUTO — Renamo has been accused of sending mainly old men, children and disabled people to the assembly points at which the former combatants in the Mozambican civil war are being gathered for demobilisation.

The accusation by the central committee of the ruling Frelimo party suggests that Renamo is keeping its able-bodied soldiers in the bush.

Many of Renamo's guerrillas are known to have been teenagers captured and forced to fight with the rebel forces.

The government has demobilised more than 6,000 troops through the United Nations-run assembly points, while Renamo has demobilised slightly more than 200.

Frelimo has alleged that the Renamo troops coming into the assembly points are bringing in only old and obsolete weapons and are surrendering fewer than the one rifle that each soldier is expected to hand in.

The government has not formally put the committee's claims to the international committee monitoring the process — Sowetan Africa News Service
AVACES OF MAPP'S MONUMENTED ONE-STAR JAPANESE CARRER SEEN AS A CRITIC OF A INVENTION OF ART.

The monumented one-star Japanese carrier, the career of a nation shaped by war.

The United States Navy has been criticized for its treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The monument was erected to commemorate the sacrifice of Japanese Americans who served in the United States military during the war.

The monument stands as a symbol of the struggles and achievements of Japanese Americans, who were denied the rights and opportunities of white Americans. The monument serves as a reminder of the importance of remembering and honoring the contributions of all Americans, regardless of race or ethnicity.
Gabriel Langa stood, cap in hand, under a tree at the Umphila train station, waiting to see if this time his wife and children were on the train bringing returning refugees from Swaziland.

There had been 18 other such trains and he had been there to meet all of them. But after this one had pulled in and he had searched vainly among the 700 faces for those of his family, he realised he would have to come back again to search once more when the next train came in.

His hope is shared by about 30 others who joined him in his weekly ritual at the station. It is a hope common among the 1.7 million Mozambican refugees who fled the 18-year civil war and who have been trickling home for a year.

According to Gary Perkins, who heads the operation for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Swaziland, about another 14 trains will be needed to return the rest of the 24,000 refugees based there.

The weekly train from Swaziland is just a small part of the effort by the UNHCR to repatriate those who sought refuge in Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

On a recent visit to look at the repatriation effort in Mozambique, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, said she was pleased with it especially because the refugees were being reintegrated into Mozambican society. Her pleasure showed when she visited a family at Dzosa Tongogora.

The 4-metre by 3-metre piece of blue plastic sheeting for emergency housing that was given to returnees is seen dotted around the village and the machambas (smallholdings).

"The people themselves are getting involved, they build these houses and plant these crops," Ogata said, referring to Romao Novela who was standing next to the four huts of his new household.

He farms the half hectare of land allocated to him by the Boune villagers, growing maize, melons, beans and cassava among other crops.

"Life is difficult for Novela and his two sons, since neither have been able to find work. Indeed, employment is one of the biggest problems for returnees, but not one returnee regrets coming home. They continue to live in hope that jobs will come.

The food assistance provided is not enough for the whole month, Novela said, but if the rains come the crops will feed him and his family, and he would no longer need help.

Said UNHCR co-ordinator for southern Africa, David Lamber: "This is one of the most rewarding aspects of the job. We are bringing people home rather than dealing with the crisis. At last the story has a happy ending."
SA defines border with Mozambique

Maputo — After three years of joint effort, South Africa and Mozambique have almost finished defining the border of their territorial waters.

Surveys on the coast and on the high seas have been completed and a map is being drawn for approval by both countries, according to Justice Minister Ali Diatole, who heads the Mozambican team.

Once this has been done, a bilateral agreement will be signed.

The border will run into the Indian Ocean from Gold Hill, near Ponta do Ouro, where the land border meets the coast.

Buoys laid last year by a South African ship will be used to measure co-ordinates for the border.

Definition of the border is necessary to demarcate fishing and other maritime exploitation rights as well as for political purposes.

Mozambique’s maritime border with Tanzania was ratified in 1988.

Next Mozambique will begin negotiations to define the border with Madagascar, whose nearest point is about 400 km from Mozambique — Star Africa Service.
Mozambicans return home

HARARE — More than 20,000 Mozambican refugees had been repatriated from Zimbabwe since the start of the repatriation operation in June last year, the Zana news agency reported.

"The precise figure to date stands at 11,571 refugees repatriated in 1994 and a total of 39,887 since the start of the operation in June, 1993," a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Harare said yesterday.

She added that the programme would be speeded up in July.

"The present convoy schedule foresees that until October 1994, at least a further 30,000 refugees will return home," she said.

About 65,000 Mozambican refugees had registered for repatriation in the past few weeks. — Sapa.
Airwaves free-for-all in Maputo

Maputo — Private radio stations are proliferating in Mozambique after the state ended its monopoly.

The government-run Radio Mozambique had exclusive broadcasting rights from independence in 1976.

The latest stations are RTK, owned by Carlos Klint, and Radio Projecto, owned by Jose Custodio.

Licences have previously been granted to Radio Miramar, a religious station, and Radio FM, directed by radio journalist Suleiman Kadir.

Still being processed are licence applications from Radio Encontro, to be run by the Catholic archdiocese of Nampula, and Coop Radio.

Another station, the Parochial Radio of the Sacred Family, is expected to be licensed soon.
Despite some hitches in the peace process, Mozambique is bloc
Jasper Mortimer reports for The Star Africa Service from N:

**Peace is like water to a**

Maputo is like a garden deprived of water for many years, says the South African ambassador to Mozambique, John Sando.

"Now that you are watering it, plants are growing, flowers are blooming. It's wonderful."

A few days ago Sando got stuck in a traffic jam. He was delayed a year ago when enough cars (for a traffic jam), he quipped:

"Today no one's going to stop to find a show that is not there's show. A year ago shows were still boarded up he said:

The police in Maputo symbolises what is happening across the country now that peace has descended and the United Nations' Operation in Mozambique (Cinam) is in full swing.

The ceasefire has lasted 19 months. After some initial setbacks, it has worked beautifully. A Western ambassador praised the ceasefire.

In its wake, there have come 4,000 UN troops and officials taking over the capital's parking lots.

With the big UN presence, the aid agencies have expanded their operations to remote areas that were cut off during the war.

As a result, the two parties to the peace process - the Frelimo government and former rebel Renamo - are no longer as much as other threats.

Their leaders, President Joaquim Chissano and Afonso Dhlakama, have met at least 12 times since they signed the 1992 peace accord in Rome.

**Talk openly.**

They appear to be able to talk openly and resolve problems, a diplomat said.

The two sides meet regularly in the UN Supervisory and Monitoring Committee, chaired by UN special envoy Adolfo Lopez, and in the UN ceasefire committee.

What surprises diplomats is the mild language that Renamo and Frelimo use in speaking to each other's transgressions.

The leader of the Frelimo delegation to the supervisory committee, Transport Minister Armando Guebuza, said he was worried about the strange movements of Renamo forces.

His opposite number, General Renato Domingos of Renamo, said the government's sudden reduction of its troop strength - a cut from 12,000 men - was merely adding "a lack of confidence."

The biggest transformation in the past few months, said a diplomat, "is that people are responding to elections."

Previously people tended to think the polls would be too far to vote to vote into 100,000 now they are confident the election will take place on October 27 and 28.

Officially, campaigning can start only on the road to the elections are "quite disturbing" and alarming.

Early in May the government put the brakes on demobilization. It chased Renamo out of its forces in proportion.

Recently 500 Frelimo troops mobilized at the UN assembly area outside the port of Quelimane. They had apparently had their demobilization postponed twice. They wanted their demobilization and to go home.

That announcement the government announced it was resuming demobilization.

At the time of the ceasefire, Frelimo said it had roughly 60,000 troops in the field.

**Renamo's Raul Domingos worried about Frelimo troop figures**

**Frelimo's Armando Guebuza worried about Renamo troop movements.**

Democratic and administrator of the UN Development Programme, says some obstacles on the road to the elections are "quite disturbing and alarming."

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At the time of the ceasefire, Frelimo said it had roughly 60,000 troops in the field. This month it said the figure was 40,000.

Not only Renamo was suspected of observers suspected the government of keeping its fighting units.

What worries Ajello most is that the formation of the integrated army is behind schedule. The training centres are up and running for only half of the 30,000 troops that
Hitches in the peace process, Mozambique is blooming.

New reports for The Star Africa Service from Maputo

"like water to a garden"

The new army must contain under the Rome accord.

The other half are still in the assembly areas, where they retain their Frelimo or Renamo loyalties, or in the bush.

They are being held up by delays in selection, demobilization, funding and the building of military bases.

Apollo insists the elections cannot take place until all of the 50,000 soldiers have at least begun their integration, and the rest have been demobilized. To do otherwise would risk land losses reverting to war.

"If we keep on accumulating delays," said Apollo on the night of the Quintalazo troop mutiny, "we are putting the election date in jeopardy.

Kabwata has called for the national army to be reduced to 15,000 men initially so that the election is not delayed, with the other 15,000 being trained afterwards.

But the government has so far rejected his proposal. Nevertheless, the overall mood in Mozambique is upbeat.

British ambassador Richard Ellis told The Star Africa Service that there will be further bumps on the election road.

"There will be residual suspicion and mutual accusations, but I think these can be overcome. We will have a successful outcome to the peace process."

Gap narrowing

Predictions vary as to who will win the election. Local opinion polls have forecast a Frelimo victory, but the gap is narrowing.

And it is difficult to imagine how opinion polls can be reliable in a war-ravaged country which has not even had a census for 14 years.

Some diplomats say Renamo is in a stronger position, benefiting from popular disenchantment with Frelimo rule.

What is interesting is that these, the country's first-ever democratic elections, mean the government is going to be decided by demographics.

Mozambique has always been dominated by the south. Frelimo's founder, Eduardo Mondlane, the first president Samora Machel, and so many as three-quar ters of the government have all been born in the southern province of Maputo, which has little land.

Diplomats say this is widely resented north of Sofala. Frelimo courted on this recently, and has been making its central committee look more representatively representative.

Forecasters are looking particularly at the north-eastern provinces of Zambezia and Nampula, which are home to a third and a half of the estimated national population of 17 million people.

Opinion polls predict a clean race in the two provinces. And much could change in the next few and a half months.

In the meantime, not a few people in the neglected north must be rethinking the fact that for the first time in Mozambique's history, it is they who will determine the fate of the country.
Witches and ghosts echo across Park Station's platform 15 as last minute passengers pack into third class coaches just before 5.45 pm.

Careful not to pop his head too far into a compartment before the train pulls off, a man holding his brother's platform farewell warns him to wrap up warmly: "Frio, Belfast! (Belfast is cold).

Conversation in the compartment is predominantly in Portuguese and Shungungu, with a touch of Zulu and English thrown in.

The passenger route to Maputo resumed a after 15 years break just after the elections.

Natural end

Effectively, the three-times-a-week service from Johannesburg is simply the daily Komatipoort train taking the line through the eastern Transvaal to its natural end at Maputo, which is Johannesburg's closest port.

It arrives there mid-morning the following day.

Passengers not lucky enough to find a compartment sit cramped in the passage.

When they break out in song one of the Mozambicans in the compartment jokes "He, he, they're singing! We are not Frelands, we are not Renano, we are the National Congress."

"But there are only two real parties in our elections — Frelands and Renano — and Frelands will win!"

DUNCAN GUY takes a third-class ticket on a Maputo-bound train following the revival of the passenger service to and from Mozambique.

Mozambicans go to the polls in October following a peace accord between the Frends government and the Renamo rebel movement after 17 years of civil war following independence in 1975.

The then-civil war was already riddled by a war that started in the 1960s between Frende's guerrillas and the Portuguese colonial regime.

Back on the train, at Verwoerdburgstad, a man in Spoornet uniform knocks on the door, not to collect tickets, but to sell Mozambican currency on the black market.

Offering 10,000 meticals for R10, the passengers tell him to "voumt." But at Pretoria he emerges once again, this time from the platform with an extra two 1,000 metical notes. A deal is struck.

"The sight of a white in third-class brings a comment, "where South Africa is that country?"

The New South Africa has come on board.

But the "new" trend seems better established on the platform where a distinctly Afrikaner character's usual informal sector hardware pushing souvenirs through third-class windows.

The sales cry "Vraal haaid, dis genuine var!"

Another hawker has the Mozambicans in the compartment interested in his toothbrushes for sale.

"They are old," they protest.

The vendor instantly produces little plastic covers for them, forgotten to pre-wrap them in, but too late.

However, the Maputo-age group buy up his bright green-and-pink cones, urging me to buy one, too.

"For your cellphone (hears), ungu (trends)!"

Another rice

A ripper of pop and curried stew soels for R3 at a kiosk. The Mozambican eat the view without the South African staple.

"We prefer rice," they say.

Minibus taxis, of course, also ply the route to Maputo, and they're much faster. But they cost R100 each from Johannesburg which for third-class passengers, is a lot more than the R50 train ticket.

Travellers say they prefer the train, even if they catch it on a day that it goes only as far as Komatipoort, because overnight trains pass the pre-dawn hours waiting for the border post to open.

And one Mozambican's experience of that is "Frio, Komatipoort, frio."
The specter that haunts the Mozambican peacekeepers as the country approaches its first free election in October is what happened in Angola in 1992.

In September and October of that year, the Angolans voted the losing party challenged the result, the hawks reached for their guns and within weeks the civil war had revived.

Mozambicans are uncomfortably aware of the many parallels with their sister-Lusophone state. In both cases, the elections are a first in the country's history. They are supervised by the United Nations. They are essentially two-horse races, between the formerly Marxist government and the formerly South African-backed rebels.

More ominously, both states have a surplus of weapons -- the legacy of 16 to 17 years of civil war. This makes it easy for a bad loser to resort to force.

But there are many differences.

Firstly, the UN has sent a much bigger force to Mozambique. In Angola, the UN had a derisory 560 civilian and military personnel, rising to 800 during the election. The UN Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) has more than 6,000 troops, police and officials.

Secondly, ONUMOZ chief Aldo Ajello, who insisted on a large-scale force, has made it clear he will not allow the elections to proceed until the military integration and demobilization have finished.

This means that the Freiimo government forces and Renamo rebels must equally contribute to the creation of an army of 30,000 men. The rest of their fighters are to be disarmed at UN assembly areas and sent home with demobilization payments.

In Angola, only a quarter of the integrated army was enrolled by polling day and demobilization had been left for later. Said one diplomat in Maputo: "We are learning the lessons of Angola."

Thirdly, the international community has much more leverage in Mozambique. In Angola, the MPLA government earned revenue from the offshore oil wells and Unita controlled the northeastern diamond fields. In Mozambique, the two sides have very little in the way of independent sources of income. Renamo's campaign, for instance, is being funded by a trust set up under the Rome peace accords.

In terms of per capita GDP, Mozambique is the poorest country in the world. Whoever wins the elections will need foreign support.

Fourthly, there is a linearity between President Jonas Chissano and Renamo chief Afonso Dhlakama. They have met at least a dozen times since Rome in 1992.

"They appear to be able to talk openly and resolve problems," said a Western diplomat. Nobody ever said that of Angolans President Jose dos Santos, and Unita's Jonas Savimbi.

"Chissano is a pragmatist," the diplomat added, "and Dhlakama is not a Savimbi."

Perhaps the most hopeful feature of the Mozambican process is that there is already a public debate on the merits of forming a government of national unity.

The foreign powers are keen to avoid a "winner take all" election. They believe it was this that made the results in Angola so explosive.

When Mozambican journalists ask Chissano about a coalition, he refuses to commit himself. He points out that he is fighting an election to win votes, not to make deals. But he does say he would appoint a government that would bring stability.

Dhlakama is more favourable to the idea. He says he would bring outsiders into the Cabinet, as Renamo lacks experienced personnel.

Ajello believes a coalition government would be "extremely wise."
Bid to halt mutinies in camps

Maputo.—In an effort to stem a tide of mutinies sweeping through troop assembly camps, Mozambique's government and former rebels are to send about 15,000 soldiers to the barracks of a joint new national army while they await retraining. Radio Mozambique announced yesterday. (218)

When the soldiers enter the new barracks they will cease to be members of either of the two former belligerent forces and answer to the new army command, the radio said, citing a high-ranking government official.

Soldiers have protested over poor conditions in the camps and demand that they be moved out immediately. —Sapa-APP.
West raps Maputo over troops

PAUL FAUVET
Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Western ambassadors have sharply criticised the Mozambican government for its slowness in demobilising its troops — and have warned that this is threatening the goodwill of the international community.

The warning was issued by the ambassadors of Britain, France, Italy, Portugal, Germany, the United States and France, together with the representative of the Organisation of African Unity.

All sit on the Supervisory and Control Commission (CSC), the body in overall charge of implementing the 1992 peace agreement.

In a joint statement they warned that elections, scheduled for October, could not be held until demobilisation was complete and that the goodwill of the international community was threatened by the government's failure to meet obligations it had freely accepted.

So far only 77 percent of the government troops have reported to the assembly points from which they are being demobilised, and the deadline for completing troop assembly is July 1.

More than 11,000 troops still have to check in at these points.

The process may be further delayed by the mutiny of a commando unit, which yesterday threw up barricades on the main road leading from Maputo to the north and centre of the country.
Poll registration not fast enough

Maputo — Mozambicans are registering to vote in their first free election at a rate of about 100,000 a day — and the roll contains about 3 million names.

But this is not fast enough to complete registration on time for the October 27-28 election.

The electorate is estimated at more than 8.5 million and, at the current rate, only 6 million will be registered by the August 15 deadline (2.18).

A 25-day extension is planned, but only for "special cases," such as returning refugees or demobilised soldiers, said Bento Muzala, chairman of the National Elections Commission.

He denied Renamo allegations of fraud at registration posts
— Star Foreign Service.
HOW SAID OUR WARRIORS RING HOPE TO WAR-WEEN MOONLIGHT
New legs give hope to mine casualties

By PETER DE IONIQ

This orthopaedic centre at Beira General Hospital, one of seven in Mozambique, where legs are made and fitted for the endless stream of land mine casualties, caters for everyone from toddlers to the very old.

Isabella Amara, 21, her two-year-old son strapped to her back, expects to find it easy to walk again because the mine that took off her right foot left the rest of the leg intact. However, she too faces long-term hardship because her husband left her soon after she was rescued on the way to her mine plot in Gorongosa 18 months ago.

"I did not know how I could go on with only one foot," she says. "Now I can look after my child. We can start again." By South African standards new "stretcher" legs cost about $600, but a prosthetic leg that will get an amputee back on two feet.

"We see it as a bargain. People who come here are not charged, and with the leg they get back part of the life the mine has destroyed," says Beira Red Cross chief Ulises Mafheve.

But it is a bargain that few mine victims could ever afford without foreign charity fees and long-term care.

And that is now in the balance with the Red Cross, which has spent millions equipping the centre, planning to pull out in six months if the current uneasy truce holds after October's elections.

All the technicians and nursing staff are employed by the government but funding to run the centre is not yet guaranteed.

The Red Cross is negotiating with all possible benefactors including the South African government to fund promises of $2 million a year to keep the leg factory operating.

If support can't be found, the Red Cross will stay. It is a commitment tempered by weary reluctance. The demand is endless. With every new war from Rwanda to Afghanistan there is another call on its primary function of giving care and comfort where angels fear to tread.
Poll fraud, cries Renamo leader

Maputo — Rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama accused the Mozambique government of preparing to rig the October election, and threatened to reject the results of the poll.

Dhlakama, who led Renamo in a 16-year civil war against the government, said at the weekend that he would put his charges of electoral fraud to President Joaquim Chissano at a meeting tomorrow or on Wednesday.

"We have time to try to stop the fraud," he said.

"This is dangerous."

The "biggest problem" lay in the registration of voters, which was entirely in the hands of the Mozambique government.

"What we see now I can call proper fraud," Dhlakama said.

He accused the government of issuing flawed registration cards which would be rejected during the election, of registering foreigners from neighbouring countries, and of deliberately delaying the process so that many rural Mozambicans would not be registered by the August 20 deadline.

"If the majority of Mozambicans do not participate because they did not register, how can we consider that a proper election?" Dhlakama asked.

However, the man who played a leading role in the brutal civil war pledged that he would not return to the battlefield.

"Even if the election is not free and fair, we won't again use bazookas or cannon or AK-47s because I'm tired after 16 years in the bush," he said.

Pressed on what he would do if the government won, he said he believed to be a fraudulent election, he said that with the help of the Mozambican people and the international community he would push for a re-run of the election.

"But what we will not do is use arms," he said.

— Sape-AFP
Mandela in Maputo

First official state visit of President Tambutu

Peaceful election

21 April 1994
SA 'a model for Mozambique'

Mandela offers hand in election

Maputo — President Mandela offered logistical support for Mozambique's October election and held out South Africa's transition to democracy as a model for its neighbour yesterday.

After a meeting with Mandela on the second day of the president's first state visit since his inauguration, National Elections Commission (CNE) president Braam Maluleke said: "He offered us help with air transport, vehicles and means of communication, and explained the hard path to elections in his country as a useful example for our own process.'

With three weeks left of a 10-week voter registration campaign, only 3.7 million voters have been registered — less than half the 8 million estimated potential voters in Mozambique's first multiparty election.

Registration officials have been hampered by a lack of adequate transport and means of communication.

And since the multiparty CNE had "failed to reach consensus", 350,000 Mozambican emigrants, many of them living in South Africa, will not be allowed to vote, Maluleke said.

Yesterday, Mandela indicated that Mozambique had repeated its opposition to forming a government of national unity before the election.

At a press conference in Maputo, Mandela said: "The leadership of Mozambique has drawn a distinction between our case and that of their own country. Whether I may agree with that or not, I must leave it to them to decide what is best for their country.'

He said he was prepared to meet Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama as scheduled today.

Yesterday he laid a wreath at Heroes Acre in Maputo in remembrance of Mozambique's first post-independence president, Samora Machel.

Later, President Joaquin Chissano accompanied him to Maputo's disputed harbour which South Africa is hoping to revive.

Mozambican government soldiers yesterday paralysed the northern fishing port of Angoche, in the latest of a spate of mutinies at United Nations assembly points, state-run Radio Mozambique reported.

The assembly points are part of the monitoring system established by 1992 peace accords which ended 18 years of civil war between the government and Renamo rebels.

The state radio said the mutineers, who were demanding immediate demobilisation, closed down the local police station after threatening electricity workers. Most shops and public services in the town were closed, for fear of looting.

Trouble in Angoche first flared up on Wednesday, when 1,800 soldiers stoned the local police station, beat up the commander and seized four AK-47s.

They raped two women and barricaded the road to the provincial capital, Nampula. In the confusion, a truck ran over and killed a civilian.

The radio said the mutineers also held one of its journalists hostage for several hours and threatened to kill him. — Sapa-AFP-Reuters
Mandela sees Renamo impressed by peace pledge

MAPUTO — President Nelson Mandela yesterday said he was impressed by Renamo leader Mr. Afonso Dhikama’s commitment to peace.

Mr. Mandela was speaking after a brief meeting with Mr. Dhikama during his state visit here.

Efforts had been made in the past for him to meet Mr. Dhikama, but the time factor had made this impossible, he said.

He said he was impressed by “the extent to which he (Mr. Dhikama) has stressed the question of peace and the question of addressing problems together with President Joachim Chissano.”

“Some of the problems he has outlined are problems which have been outlined by President Chissano.”

Mr. Mandela said Mr. Dhikama had adopted a conciliatory tone and a desire to reach a settlement with President Chissano.

The meeting between the two leaders took place against a background of opposition by Mozambique’s ruling Frelimo Party, which feared that Mr. Dhikama would derive political gain from being seen in public with Mr. Mandela.

Mr. Dhikama, whose Renamo is Frelimo’s main opposition in elections due in late October, said Mr. Mandela was an important figure in Southern Africa. He said his intervention in Mozambique’s peace process was to be welcomed.
Mozambican mutineers halt SA trains to Maputo

The Argus Foreign Service

Johannesburg. — All trains between South Africa and Maputo have been suspended after mutinous soldiers seized and looted a Spoornet goods train at Matola station near the Mozambican capital.

The passenger trains that normally run three times a week to Maputo will turn round at Komatipoort until further notice, Spoornet said today.¹

No goods trains would run to Maputo until the Mozambican railway authorities gave the all-clear.

Normally three or four goods trains travel daily to Maputo, carrying a total of 7,000 tons of freight.

The hold-up is expected to be a severe setback to South African efforts to divert more traffic through Maputo under the programme of economic assistance to Mozambique.

The goods train seized at Matola, about 25km west of Maputo, was held for several hours on Wednesday by the mutineers, who looted much of its cargo of South African citrus fruit before allowing it to proceed.

The hijacking is the latest in a series of mutinous actions by Mozambican soldiers angered by delays in demobilising them under the peace process. Some of the troops are also complaining that they have not been paid and are being poorly fed.

All traffic on Mozambique's main north-south highway was halted when troops blocked the road at Machafutene, about 15km from Maputo. The roadblock was removed today.
Volunteers lacking for new Mozambican army

MAPUTO — A lack of volunteers was hampering efforts to create a post-war army in Mozambique, with only 5,900 of the necessary 30,000 soldiers signed up, a UN official said yesterday.

A deal signed by the government and rebels envisioned a 30,000-member army by the time elections were held from October 27-28, but UN special representative Alobo Ajello said this would not be possible.

Nevertheless, the UN has insisted the election be held as planned. It was delayed once after having been scheduled for 1993. Disagreements between the government and rebels have delayed the transition to democracy.

Problems forming a new army out of former government and rebel fighters are blamed on a lack of interest due to low pay and rough conditions. The army is to be comprised of volunteers, who are instead seeking better paying jobs rebuilding the country.

The new army is to be comprised of 15,000 men each from the government and rebels, and Ajello said recruitment and training would continue throughout the election.

A 6,000-strong UN contingent is helping oversee the 1992 peace accord, which ended 15 years of fighting. Despite the slow pace of forming a new military, UN officials say they are not too concerned about a resumption of fighting because of both sides' acknowledgment that they could not win the war.

More than half a million people died in Mozambique's war between the Marxist government and right-wing Renamo guerrillas. — Sapa-AF.
Hope as Mozambique faces poll

NO THREAT

Still an overriding anxiety for peace remains:

Despite indications to the contrary, Mozambique is still moving steadily towards its first free election, writes Gerald L'Ange of the Sowetan Foreign Service:

Mozambique's peace process seems to be a mess, with soldiers mutinying across the country, the troop demobilisation far behind schedule, the peace talks nowhere near ready and bickering on the increase.

All of this suggests that the elections scheduled for October 27 and 28 cannot be held on schedule and that the country might descend into chaos.

Yet diplomats at Maputo take quite a different view. They are confident that the demobilisation will be completed before the election, that the election will take place and that it will stand a good chance of being declared generally free and fair.

They are more concerned about what will happen afterwards. They worry about whether the reconciliation process can be maintained, whether the winning party will seek vengeance on the losers. Whether the next government will be able to launch measures to rebuild the devastated economy, whether it will be able to return the thousands of ex-soldiers to a productive civilian life, whether it will be able to contain crime and other problems arising from mass unemployment.

Peace process

From their answers and others it is not clear that the problems besetting the peace process have done nothing to weaken the role of popular support for it. On all sides there remains an overriding anxiety for peace to be firmly established and for the people to be allowed to start rebuilding their lives and their country after more than a quarter-century of war.

Both the former rebel movements, Renamo, and the government appear to remain committed to ending the fight.

Fretilin leader Alberto Chissano

felt by soldiers who have been kept idle in some cases for as long as six months.

The demobilisation problems are seen as a peculiarity of the peace process, not a threat to it. They stem from bureaucratic bungling by the Fretilin government, the United Nations and the former rebel movements, Renamo—probably in that order of culpability.

Part from being politically suspect, the mutinies are simply an expression of the intense frustration and resentment

of many of Renamo's soldiers caused by the failure of their forces as spoiled and demoralised under threat of death if they revolted.

The last three months have shown that ex-soldiers want more military service. Rather than secure employment in the armed forces, they prefer to take their chances among the army of the unemployed that has left the war and the destruction of the economy.

The demand of the mutinies is simple - to be released, although many of the government troops have recently demanded in addition the wage increases that were given to civil servants.

The UN, which is in charge of the militia camps, has been blamed for not fully carrying out its responsibility to disarm the men in the camps. Imposing a one-soldier, one rifle rule, they overlooked the fact that many of the troops brought more than one weapon into the camps.

Being armed, the mutineers were able to set up roadblocks on main roads, to hold off other forces, to loot shops and banks and loot South African goods at a loss. It was perhaps fortunate that a small unit based near Maputo was able to operate only three of its 30 odd tanks when it moved in—a fact that was either unverifiable or not at all.

The mutinies had resulted in diplomats report a reinstatement in the pace of demobilisation since the mutinies began early in July and spread across the country, with about 200 mutineers reported by the end of the month among Renamo as well as government soldiers.

Under the inestimably approved by the UN Security Council, demobilisation was to have been completed by May 20. By the end of July the government had demobilised only about 28,000 of its 40,000 troops. Renamo had demobilised only about 10,000 of the 23,000 combatants it had claimed to have in its ranks.

Optimistic

With the speed-up prompted by the mutinies, diplomats optimists that demobilisation will be completed by the end of this month. This would mean that there would be no need to fail upon each other if the election outcome is disputed, as was the case in Angola, where there was only partial demobilisation.

Despite reports of arms being hidden by Renamo forces, diplomats say they have hard evidence of significant concealment of weapons or troops by either side.

The only major force in the country at election time should be the joint army of 30,000 but only 14,000 recruits have so far been found for it. Only a few of these have undergone training by the British, Zimbabwean and Portuguese instructors who are trying to put the new force together, and several hundred of them are understood to have deserted already.

It is on this fact that the training camps provided by the Mozambican government are reputed to have been so disrupted as to be virtually unstartable in some cases.

It seems unlikely that the national army will be at more than half strength by election time but that Willem de Klerk will not consider it to be a threat to its destiny. Learning from the experiences of the immensely greatly under-monitored Angolan election, the UN and other international bodies plan to station large numbers of observers in Mozambique. In this situation, diplomats believe that it will be difficult for any party to engage in major election bribery. The chances of the election being declared generally free and fair would be good.

It would still remain to be seen whether the losing side accepted defeat graciously. A Fretilin victory is not assured and in any event is unlikely to be a landslide, given that public opinion polls have shown strong support for Renamo in some areas.

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama is said to recognise, however, that his party does not have the wherewithal to form an effective government even if it does win the election. This may explain his latest proposal for a government of national unity regardless of the election outcome.

Fretilin has not accepted that proposal but that seems to have turned sour the election context.

With three months to go, Mozambique is still moving forward to its first free election—after months of devastation, combat, and progress, but not falling down.
Mines dispute on new path

ERIC JANKOWITZ

THE NUM and Chamber of Mines have agreed to appoint independent political and economic analyst Eugene Nyati as the chairman of a conciliation board hearing which is scheduled to start today.

Commentators said they were pleased this was the first time a chairman without a legal background had been appointed to head a statutory dispute resolution mechanism of this kind.

Nyati, who is director of the Centre for African Studies, is expected to bring a new perspective to the collective bargaining process and actively participate in the hearing.

His grounding in economic and social processes was welcomed by both parties in the belief this would contribute to the conciliation process.

The parties reached deadlock with the chamber offering an average 8% wage increase and the NUM demanding 12%. The NUM lodged a second dispute with the chamber on the issue of adult basic education and the development of skills.

The conciliation board is scheduled to sit for two days, in the hope that the parties will end the dispute and reach a settlement.

Meanwhile, Sefsa and its 12 recognised trade unions began a wage mediation process today after the parties failed to reach a settlement. Sefsa has offered an 8% wage increase but the unions are demanding between 9% and 12%.

An exemption proposal, proposed by some employers, was also in dispute.

Black fuel retailers reject petrol pumps at taxi ranks

THEO RAWANA

The erection of petrol pumps at taxi ranks was not a good plan because it meant taking a slice of business from black petrol retailers, the National Black Fuel Retailers Association (Nabira) said at the weekend.

The Organised Taxi Industry (OTT) is on the verge of getting government approval to erect 25 petrol pumps at major taxi ranks nationwide following talks with Mineral and Energy Minister Pik Botha.

The scheme, which will provide relief to the taxi industry through distribution of benefits to members, received the approval of the Minister, who is in turn due to present it to Cabinet on Wednesday.

Nabira chairman Moses Moleole said last Friday that while his organisation sympathised with the taxi industry, the deal did not address affirmative action because it amounted to taking from blacks to give to blacks.

Land offer draws SA farmers

LOUISE COOK

"Once an agricultural project proposal is approved, Mozambique allocates free land for a two-year period, during which sufficient progress must be made with the farming project," he said.

Meanwhile, sources from the Northern Transvaal Agricultural Union confirmed that efforts were being made to help resettle struggling farmers in Africa, but these farmers were more likely to move to Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Northern Transvaal Agricultural Union chairman Gert Etters said local farmers' interest in moving elsewhere was linked to bleak economic prospects locally.
Despite indications to the contrary, Mozambique is still moving steadily towards its first free election, Gerald L'Ange writes for the Star Foreign Service

Mozambique is stumbling but peace is still on track

by the mutinees, diplomats are optimistic that demobilisation will have been completed by the end of this month. This would mean that there would be no rival armies to fall upon each other if the election outcome is disputed, as was the case in Angola where there was only partial demobilisation.

Despite reports of arms being held by Renamo, diplomats say there is no hard evidence of significant concealment of weapons or troops by either side.

The only major force in the country at election time should be the police force of 90,000. Only about 14,000 recruits have so far been found for it, but few of these have undergone training by the British, Zimbabwean and Portuguese instructors who are trying to put the new force together, and several hundred of them are understrength to have been deployed.

One reason for this could be that the training camps provided by the Mozambican government are reported to have been so dismally run as to be virtually uninhabitable.

Concealment

It seems unlikely that the national army will be at more than half strength by election time, but that will not matter if demobilisation has been completed and there has been no large-scale concealment of armed forces by either side.

Learning from the experience of the grossly under-manned Angolan election, the UN and other international bodies plan to station large numbers of observers in Mozambique to make it difficult for any party to engage in major election trickery.

It still remains to be seen whether the Angolan experience will make itself felt in the campaign, given that public opinion polls have shown strong support for Renamo in some areas.

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama is said and to recognise that his party does not have the wherewithal to form an effective government even if it does win. This may explain his proposal for a government of national unity, regardless of the election outcome.

Frelimo has rejected this proposal but that seems not to have soured the election contest.

With three months to go to the election, Mozambique is staggers, deviating, bawling, but not falling down.
Chissano retires from the military

Maputo — Major-General Joaquim Chissano, president of the republic and official head of the Mozambican government army, retires from military service today, it was announced yesterday.

His retirement will mark a symbolic step in the ongoing extinction of the government’s Armed Forces of Mozambique, giving way to the new national Armed Defence Forces of Mozambique, made up jointly of former government and Renamo opposition troops.

Meanwhile, Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama claims he has already beaten the August 15 deadline for demobilising all troops on either side under the latest timetable for fulfilling Mozambique’s peace accord to end the civil war.

However, United Nations peacekeepers supervising the demobilisation say Renamo still has many more soldiers to discharge — Sapa-AFP.
Unified Mozambique army takes over defence

MAPUTO. — Mozambique took a major step towards lasting peace with the formal transfer of responsibility for national defence to an army composed equally of government soldiers and former rebels.

At a ceremony yesterday in Maputo’s Heroes Square, President Joaquim Chissano dissolved the army he helped to form 30 years ago to fight for independence.

The new Armed Forces for the Defence of Mozambique (FADM), which eventually should have 15,000 men from the old government army and 15,000 from Renamo, under a peace agreement signed in 1992, is now the official military — Sapa-Reuter
Chissano stakes his claim

MAPUTO — Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano has officially put in his bid for another five years in office, becoming the first politician to register as a candidate in October’s first multiparty election.

Mr Chissano, expected by political analysts to win the vote, delivered a pile of documents to the chairman of the independent national electoral commission.

His political rivals from the deeply divided opposition have until August 29 to register.

Mr Chissano’s most serious contender is Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the former rebel movement Renamo which fought the Frelimo government for 16 years until peace accords in October 1992.

Mr Dhlakama must formally retire from Renamo’s armed forces before he can register and he has said he will become a civilian on Friday.

Mr Chissano was a founding member of Frelimo in 1962. From September 1974 to June 1975 he was prime minister in a transitional government. He was foreign minister for 11 years, after independence from Portugal, before assuming the presidency — Sapa-Reuters.
Renamo candidate in election quandary

MAPUTO — Afonso Dhlakama, a former rebel leader and candidate in Mozambique's first post-war presidential election in October, had still not collected the 10,000 signatures required to back his candidacy, electoral officials said yesterday.

The UN-backed elections are the first to be organised in the southern African country since the current government, and rebels signed a peace treaty in Rome in October 1992, ending a 17-year civil war which started after independence from Portugal in 1976.

However, with four days to go before all the presidential lists have to be filed, Dhlakama, leader of the former Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo), needed 115 signatures to complete the minimum requirement of 10,000, said a spokesman for the National Elections Commission.

"Some of Dhlakama's supporting signatures were invalid because the same people signed up for other candidates," he said.

By contrast, Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique's current president and the presidential candidate of the ruling Frelimo party, had already presented 20,000 signatures and had all his documents in order, the spokesman said.

Among the other parties, Domingos Arouca, leader of the non-armed opposition party United Front of Mozambique (Fumo), has more than 12,000 names on his list.

Padimbe Kamati, leader of the minor PPPM opposition party, who had claimed he would clinch victory in the election with 85% of the vote, had only a fistful of valid signatures by last night.

And the leader of the "offbeat" religious-based PPLM, Neves Serrano, needed approximately 9,000 more valid signatures.

The spokesman said the two major parties contesting the elections, Frelimo and Renamo, had all their documents in order for the candidates in the parliamentary election to be held at the same time.

So too did Fumo, the National Coalition Party (PCN) and the Workers' Party (PT).

Frelimo's list of parliamentary candidates is dominated by present-day ministers and other leading government members.

Some Frelimo members have expressed disappointment that the party in power since 1975 is fielding the same names and is showing no apparent intention of changing its approach after the ending of the war.

Sapa-AFP.
Renamo's poll funds run dry

Maputo — A trust fund set up with foreign money to pay the election costs of the Renamo rebel movement has run dry, the top UN official in Mozambique said yesterday.

Aldo Ajello, the UN special representative, told reporters that only $11.6 million of the $19 million ($36 million) sought for the fund had been raised from foreign donors, and that the rebels had spent it all.

A rebel statement on Monday said the movement needed more money to compete in the nation's first multiparty election, scheduled for October 27 and 28.

It said the group would boycott the vote unless rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama obtained more money. Dhlakama reportedly told Portuguese television that Renamo must get a further $5 million by September 19 or it would boycott the election.

A Renamo boycott would jeopardise the credibility of the vote and increase chances of unrest at election time.

"It's Renamo's decision to do what they think fit. It's not a UN decision," Ajello said of the Renamo threat.

The UN set up the trust fund last year after Renamo said it needed money to compete on an equal footing against President Joaquim Chissano's government, its enemy in the 13-year civil war that ended with a peace treaty in 1992.

UN officials have said they expected Chissano to win the vote, and that Renamo demands for money, housing, guns and other items were a final bid to get as much material gain as possible before the election.

Chissano's Frelimo party and Renamo are the largest of the dozen or more groups expected to take part in the election.

Mozambique's civil war erupted in 1977, two years after the country gained independence from Portugal. War, famine and disease and famine killed 900,000 people — Sapa-AP.
Returning to a bleak future

TINY HAMLET Refugees return to barren fields and a chance of rain:

By Sharon Chetty

The dark clouds gathered ominously as the midday heat — made more unbearable by the dust — enveloped the tiny hamlet.

Lucas Hungwanla looked at the barren fields thoughtfully, his face creased with worry. He had been an experienced farmer in his day, but now he faced a new challenge.

“Without rain, we are nothing,” he sighed.

After five years as a refugee in South Africa, Hungwanla, his wife, and four children returned home to their village in the Limpopo region on Monday. He had just left the camp where they had spent the last five years, hoping to return to their land.

He said, "We have been through so much. We are ready to start anew." But the land was barren, and the future looked uncertain.

Over the years, the Hungwanlas and other exiled families had worked hard to make their own small plots productive, but now they faced the daunting task of rebuilding their lives from scratch.

By the next morning, the returning refugees began to arrive, bringing with them their meager belongings. Their treasured possessions, like the family's tools, were now worth little in the face of the harsh reality they now faced.

Lucas Hungwanla's wife and children unload their luggage at Mapasu:

PIC: VELE NHILOPO

refugees' arrival at Mapasu

No one appeared pleased; it was all a frantic rush to claim possessions, register, and make arrangements to travel to further destinations. Most looked resigned — a life of hardship awaited them, and they were acutely aware of the difficult path they faced.

The returning refugees were welcomed with open arms by their neighbors, who had kept their homes safe for them. They were grateful for the support and loved ones who welcomed them back.
Poll race in Mozambique

Today marks the start of the official election campaign in Mozambique with 14 parties and coalitions in the race for the elections on October 27 and 28.

Fears that Afonso Dhlakama's Renamo movement would not take part were set to rest earlier this week and both he and Frelimo leader President Joaquim Chissano will launch their campaigns today.

There are 12 candidates for the presidency but observers believe that the poll is a two-horse race between the ruling Frelimo and former rebels Renamo.
Frelimo's manifesto for peace

Maputo — Mozambique's ruling Frelimo party has committed itself to peace and reconciliation in its election manifesto.

The manifesto was released yesterday with the launch of the official election campaign in preparation for the multiparty elections on October 27 and 28.

Frelimo claimed that, if it won the elections, its goal would be to achieve an average growth in gross domestic product of between six and seven percent between now and 1997.

It has identified rural development as its priority and the decentralisation of state structures in order to achieve a participatory democracy.

The party's economic programme pledges a rechanneling of state resources in support of the rural population and into health and education. This implies cuts in the country's defense and security spending, currently its largest budget item.

Price control is also suggested through a commitment to stabilise prices of basic consumer goods.

The election campaign saw a largely Frelimo-supporting crowd throng the streets of Maputo, easily outnumbering those of the other party contenders.

Renamo posters bearing a portrait of Afonso Dhlakama proclaimed him the one and only president.
Mozambique could opt for govt of national unity

**AFRICA**

MAPUTO — The ruling Frelimo party is under pressure from neighbours to form a government of national unity after its expected victory in Mozambique’s first democratic elections this month, regional political analysts say.

Concerned countries want Frelimo leader President Joaquim Chissano to give former guerrilla chief Afonso Dhlakama a prominent role in a new administration.

“I understand there is some private persuasion going on from officials from neighbours like SA and Zimbabwe and also from some Western countries,” a Maputo-based African analyst said.

“And then there is the inherent pressure of being surrounded by governments of national unity in Malawi, Zimbabwe and SA.”

The election, Mozambique’s first pluralist parliamentary and presidential poll, completes a process started two years ago when Chissano’s government and the Renamo rebel movement agreed to end a war that killed more than 100 000 people.

Chissano himself has complained that Frelimo, which has governed Mozambique since it gained independence from Portugal in 1975, was under pressure to establish a government of national unity after the October 27-28 poll.

Such a government, its proponents argue, would consolidate the peace process, which began in 1992 when Dhlakama’s Renamo movement agreed to end a 16-year-old civil war against the government.

“If Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe could accommodate opposition leader Joshua Nkomo, President Nelson Mandela was able to co-exist with Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and former SA leader FW de Klerk ... it should be possible for Chissano to accommodate Dhlakama,” a Zimbabwe foreign affairs official said.

Frelimo is expected to win the elections. Diplomats in Maputo say a winner-take-all stance by the party could drive Dhlakama, seen coming second in a contest of nearly a dozen parties, back to war.

“I think Chissano is very aware Mozambique can be another Angola,” one African diplomat said.

Jonas Savimbi’s Unita, which had reached a truce with the government in 1991, restarted the war the following year after Savimbi lost general elections that were certified free and fair by the UN.

The African diplomat said: “I think his (Chissano’s) better judgment will prevail but he has to convince his colleagues a government of national unity is the right thing to do.”

Mandela told journalists during a visit in July to Mozambique, his first to an African country since being installed president in May, that he would not advise Mozambicans on how to resolve their problems unless asked to do so.

“Forming a government of national unity in SA was the correct step in South Africa but the leadership of Mozambique draws a distinction between the SA case and of their own country,” Mandela said.

“Whether I agree with that or not, I must leave it up to them to take their own decisions,” he added.

A Zimbabwean official said: “Zambabwe and SA’s main concern is that there must be peace in the region and that is the point they emphasise most.” — Sapa-Reuters
UN's biggest peacetime operation

1.2 million Mozambicans repatriated

BY WINNIE GRAHAM

Maputo — The UN has resettled 1.2 million Mozambican refugees in what is probably the biggest peacetime repatriation programme yet undertaken by the organisation.

The operation, handled by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is proceeding so smoothly that 2 million people from six countries — South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda — will have been moved by the middle of next year.

All the refugees in Swaziland were returned in June, those from Zambian last week while those from Tanzania will be home before the end of this month. Repatriation from Malawi, hampered by an outbreak of bubonic plague at the border town of Mutarara, has been temporarily halted.

In the meantime, convoys carrying refugees from South Africa and Zimbabwe are leaving transit camps at regular intervals.

Army trucks, planes, trains, buses even boats, are being used to ferry people back to their homelands.

Officials from the office of the UNHCR in Maputo are understandably well-pleased at the speed with which the operation is proceeding.

The UNHCR, working with non-governmental organisations, is helping with road constructions. It is building clinics and classrooms and doing "all that is necessary to make the people self-sufficient."

On a hazardous excursion through the Limpopo River corridor, some 400 km northwest of Maputo last week, I saw thousands of newly arrived refugees in their villages trying to rebuild their lives shattered by the Renamo/Frelimo conflict.

The logistics involved in moving so vast a body of people are difficult to comprehend.

Before repatriation starts, every refugee has to be identified and issued with an ID document known as a VRF (Voluntary Repatriation Form).

The document becomes the refugee's passport, entitling him or her to transport, food and basic assistance for the coming year.

Felipe Carmargo, a UNHCR field officer at a transit camp at Chiruaca, on the Mozambiquan border, said refugees displayed enormous eagerness to return.

"We thought we would have to leave one woman behind because she was about to give birth but when the truck left, she was on it — with her 10-hour-old baby."

Carmargo says the people need help to get restarted but "they are coping very well."

Refugees pick up the pieces — Page 13
Mozambique braces itself for the elections and the battle for peace

MOZAMBIQUE is hanging precariously in pre-election limbo with a few weeks left before the elections on October 27 and 28.

"It's too far down the road to stop," said one diplomat, but the people of Mozambique seem uncertain about that road. The potential for violence -- while not held to be on the scale of a resumption of a war proper -- is enormous.

Colonel Piero Segala, the Italian officer who heads the ceasefire commission for the United Nations mission in Mozambique, quotes the 148,000 weapons officially rounded up with the disbanding of the former warring sides. More have been discovered since and Colonel Segala's estimate of the number of weapons at large in Mozambique to be a million.

There are also arms deposits claimed by former rebels Renamo which Onumoz cannot find.

"We'll fix that," says UN special representative Aldo Ajello.

While the soldierly assessment of Colonel Segala is that Renamo is "Sno Unita" and in that he is almost certainly right, the medium and longer term threat to Mozambique is random banditry and violence and the balkanising of the countryside into pockets of resistance.

"Banditry will increase dramatically," he acknowledges, but for this the Mozambicans need assistance with the training and equipping of an effective police force, he says. The international community must help, he adds, clearly of the view that it is not a problem Onumoz will have to deal with as they are due to leave shortly after the elections.

"When we pull out there will be a vacuum," Mr. Ajello acknowledges, but it is that very vacuum which so threatens Mozambique's post-election period.

The ruling Frelimo party is not considered to have a firm hand on government right now and Renamo, while Mr. Ajello notes that they cannot be dismissed as a bunch of armed bandits, has no stronger administrative capacity to offer in spite of their firm grip on some areas of the country.

In that immediate post-election period, much will depend on how the victor structures the new government. Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama has been pushing strongly for a government of national unity and members of the international community have glibly risen to support him on this quoting the success of the South African model.

Voices in South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs feel that the GNU-model that has worked so far in South Africa cannot just be foisted on others as a magic solution.

As to who will have the people's nod to form the new government, optimism has turned recently in Frelimo's favour.

It is also common cause that the two former belligerents will face their real test in the populous northern provinces.

But, as the election campaign heads into its third week and political leaders snap at each other, the people of this war-ravaged country are moved by what's in their stomachs and not by politicians.

A riot in Maputo this week was prompted by transport price hikes. In Beira people were selling their voter registration cards for "financial reasons" -- for the princely sum of eight dollars (R28,80) which nonetheless translates into 80,000 meticais and not to be snuffed at.

Observers have found the Mozambican electorate apathetic compared to the Angolan, Malawian and South African electorates.

While many problems echo those that beset Angola -- the incomplete national army, unruly demobilised soldiers, and a government of national unity -- the new South Africa "can have a vital role in avoiding a derailment of the peace and ensuring that the winner uses wisdom rather than cleverness," says Mr. Ajello.

He notes that Vice-President Thabo Mbeki has "excellent contact" with Mr. Dhlakama and the new South Africa's hand has been scrupulously neutral in the region.

Muscular diplomacy might be what it takes to get Mozambique through the months ahead.

Dale Lautenbach is foreign editor of Arms Newspapers
Where acronym GUN symbol...
GUN symbolises GNU

Monamboqo is in limbo a few weeks before the democratic election on October 27 and 28. "The country is too far down the road to stop - says one diplomat of the poll, but the people of Mozambique have been told about the length of that road and the potential for violence eats communities.

Colonel Pier Segalla, the Italian soldier who heads the census commission for the UN, estimates more than a million weapons not been handed in by the former warring sides. About 40,000 weapons were handed over at the time of disbandment and only a few have been successfully destroyed.

"That means the UN has rounded up 15 percent at best," said Segalla shortly.

There are also caches of arms which the former Renamo rebels have identified as their own, but which Omuoxo cannot find.

Segalla says the 900 such deposits but the co-ordinates he has been given are wrong.

"We will check," says UN special representative Aldo Ajello confidently, but his style has been to project confidence and he has been criticised for misleading the many problems.

Bandits

He has been criticised for dismissing many cases of rioting and banditry by former soldiers as a "criminal" issue that must be addressed by the police.

While Segalla militarily assesses Renamo as "no threat" - the former MPLA leadership has been displaced by the Omuoxo regime, the new government is still under attack.

President Joaquim Chissano has stood alone against any pre-election unity deal but has committed himself to creating a government which "unites Mozambique and serves the country." He promises "institutional space" for the opposition so that "it feels a participant in the building process of the decisions of state.

"Blackouts are to who will win the election has strongly turned in the Frelimo's favour recently but the outcome is still not an absolute certainty.

There might even be a second round of presidential elections, but it is generally held that Chissano, characterised as a pragmatic although uncharismatic leader, is more popular than his party.

It is also common came that the real test for the two "warred parties" - the former MPLA and Renamo, are called to differentiate them from the 12 other, smaller political parties which have sprung up in the nine months of instability.

The international community has been urged to ensure that the transition process is smooth and peaceful.
Praying for Peace

Afterセンチメント of bloodshed, Mozambicans went to the polls last week...
Peace most popular candidate in Mozambique

A people weary of war

CHIMOIO (Central Mozambique) — Sitting at a thatched, open-air bar overlooking the rolling plains of central Mozambique, Siromo Chiriba poured himself another glass of Portuguese wine and loudly told everyone his views about the country’s impending elections.

"Peace is what we want Peace," said Chiriba, a customs official at the nearby border between Zimbabwe and Mozambique. "Forget about politics. Forget about political parties, they only separate people. The Mozambican people want to be united and want peace."

"Viva Pau!" cheered another imbiber, but Chiriba interrupted him. "No, not viva!" he said. "That sounds like a political slogan. We just want peace. Peace. The group at the bar nodded in agreement and drank to peace.

"This continual scene at a fishing camp just off the Beira Corridor, the 300 km road and rail route linking Zimbabwe to Beira port, illustrates the attitudes of most Mozambicans to the October 27 and 28 national elections. Peace is the most popular candidate. Overwhelmingly Mozambicans say they want peace, when asked about the elections, and they say political parties are of secondary importance to them."

"We want to see unity, to see all the political parties work together," said fellow drinker Augusto Mindo. "There is not much difference between the main parties, so they must work together.

The widespread apathy towards the two main political parties — the ruling FRELIMO party and the former rebel group RENAMO — suggests Mozambique is an ideal candidate for a government of national unity, a coalition that would provide representation of all the country’s major political and ethnic groups.

In Chimoio, the city of 150,000 midway on the corridor between Zimbabwe and Beira, two young men in bright new FRELIMO T-shirts stroll past the city’s RENAMO headquarters. Youths and women wearing RENAMO stickers are unconcerned by the FRELIMO pair in their midst.

Nearby a schoolteacher wearing a FRELIMO T-shirt is asked if she supports the party. "For the moment," she answers nonchalantly.

"I think they will give us more stability. But many people here are going to vote RENAMO."

The tolerance seen on both sides in Chimoio, the capital of Manica province and heart of RENAMO’s ethnic Nhamo support in central Mozambique, augurs well for peaceful polling and acceptance by the population of the outcome of the country’s first multiparty elections.

Mozambique was a laboratory for African democracy where new solutions were needed, said UN special representative to Mozambique Alfonso N. Ajello. He and the international community are pressing RENAMO and FRELIMO to agree to a formula for a unity government.

Influential Mozambicans, like the director of the national electoral commission, have also urged the parties to avoid a winner-take-all outcome. Even Mozambicans sporting FRELIMO buttons and wearing RENAMO stickers say they support the idea of a government with representatives of all groups.

But the most likely winners, the ruling FRELIMO party and President Joaquim Chissano, have resisted pressure for a national unity government. Chissano is held back by hardliners in his party who do not want to see FRELIMO’s strength reduced from the days when it ruled as a one-party state.

Although the popularity of peace in Mozambique is unchallenged, it will take skillful and diplomatic efforts by all sides to make sure a peace thrives after the elections.

CONT. →
SHOW OF STRENGTH: Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique's president and leader of the ruling FRELIMO party, salutes his supporters at a rally in Xai-Xai, southern Mozambique, this week.

**Earning more important than voting to migrants**

A trio of Mozambicans shovelling sand at a building site in Johannesburg will not go home to vote in their country's first multiparty election next week — but they will go home for Christmas.

Earning rands, it appears, is far more important than voting. Furthermore, their home country has made no provision for migrant workers to return home for polling day.

One of the three workers is in South Africa legally. The other two ran the gauntlet of the electrified fence to come to the City of Gold in search of work.

All three, as well as their Afrikaans-speaking employer, refused to be identified.

Like an estimated 350,000 other migrant Mozambican workers around southern Africa — mainly in SA — these three will not be able to vote because the Mozambican National Elections Commission has not made provision for them.

"Earning rands over here is what is important," said one of the three, speaking in a mixture of Afrikaans, Fanagalo, Portuguese and English.

He would not disclose which party he might have voted for. "I do not trust RENAMO or FRELIMO. Only my God up there."

Also competing in the election will be 12 smaller parties, but apart from a minor showing by perhaps two or three of these, it is expected that former belligerents FRELIMO and RENAMO will be the main competitors.

What the migrant worker did understand was that those Mozambicans who fled to South Africa as refugees from the fighting had been assisted with repatriation and would indeed be voting.

Some 1.2 million refugees have already been repatriated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In what it claims is its biggest repatriation programme.

The civil war, which has raged for 16 years following FRELIMO's war for Independence against Portuguese colonial rule, has cost Mozambique an estimated 600,000 lives and reduced the economy to tatters.

Little wonder illegal workers in South Africa such as the 15-year-old on the Johannesburg building site are shy and untrusting and not willing to divulge their personal circumstances.

At first the youngster said he had come into South Africa with a passport, but later confessed to slipping over the border in May.

"I was buying and selling things in Maputo after I finished school but I earned very little money I would rather stay in SA, working, than go home to vote. But I shall go back to Maputo at Christmas-time."

He earns R125 a week. His employer said he paid qualified builders R300 to R400 a week.

"I no longer employ any South African labourers," said the employer.

"Not since they started making trouble, striking and using any excuse to go to the labour office. I started doing all the work on my own and then began to use foreigners."

"These Mozambicans are the best. But I have to be hard on them."

He said police sometimes closed off streets in the suburbs to "pomme" on the illegals and he had occasionally needed to "thuck into a block of flats with my guys."

"But they tell me: ‘Boys, the police are dons (stupid). When they arrest us and send us home we come back with more of our brothers.’"

Mozambique’s first democratic elections are scheduled for Thursday and Friday at 890 polling stations across the country in the culmination of a process which began with negotiations between FRELIMO and RENAMO in Nairobi in August 1989. The peace accord was signed in Rome on October 4, 1992.
Mozambique prepares to vote in first free election

By DESMOND BLOW

MOZAMBIQUE gears up for its first democratic election this week on Thursday and Friday amid fears that everything may not go off peacefully.

This week disgruntled former soldiers of Frelimo and Renamo, as well as election officials, threatened to disrupt the elections.

The Association of Demobilised Soldiers (AMODEG) demanded that politicians guarantee jobs for the 75,000 troops demobilised from the government and former rebel Renamo armies, under a peace agreement in 1992 that ended the 16-year civil war.

And some polling station officials are threatening to go on strike unless they receive a 200 percent pay rise.

Voters were asked to register between June and August 15, but by July 2, only about 2 million of the country's estimated 8.5 million voters had registered.

Although registration was expected to pick up over the last few weeks it is still uncertain if many of the population will be eligible to vote.

Seventy percent of the population is illiterate and a shortage of vehicles, the poor condition of many of the roads and more than likely inadequate police presence at polling stations, are regarded as the major causes for the poor registration.

Rain could threaten polling in large parts of the country because although the election dates were carefully chosen to miss the normal rain pattern, it has rained heavily in the last week.

However, the South African Air Force will help by flying in polling booths to remote areas in Mozambique.

It is expected that the ruling government of Joaquim Chissano will win the majority of the 250-seat parliament with Renamo coming second.

Frelimo ditched Marxism five years ago for democratic socialism. Chissano now presides over a market economy smiled on by the World Bank but Dhlakama has already threatened not to recognise the election result if he doesn't win.

Fears that Renamo's Alfonso Dhlakama who did what Jonas Savimbi did in Angola and continue the civil war is unlikely because Dhlakama has been promised an important position - with a good salary - in a government of national unity.
Whoever wins, goes.

Mozambique's first multi-party election results expected within 15 days.

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Renamo pins poll hopes on chiefs

KARL MAIER of The Independent reports from Inhambinga

PASSERS-BY kneel in respect as Rosa Johnny Inhambinga sat in the shade of a mango tree, explaining why she was urging her followers to vote for Renamo and not for the Frelimo government. "Frelimo and Renamo are Mozambican, but Renamo likes the people and Frelimo committed many errors," Mrs Inhambinga, 48, said. "Because Renamo fought for democracy, many people here will vote for them. If Renamo loses, the people's suffering will continue," she added.

Her word carries weight in the Renamo-controlled central town of Inhambinga because, as her name indicates, she is a mpetum, a local chief, part of a traditional political structure President Chissano's Frelimo failed to sweep away during the revolutionary days that followed independence from Portugal in 1975.

Loyal chiefs who lent support against Renamo insurgents are a key factor in the movement's electoral chances. Although Renamo was accused of carrying out atrocities during the war, it appears to have strong support in Sofala and in the densely populated northern provinces of Zambézia and Nampula.

Part of its popularity is due to a close relationship to traditional authorities "Renamo does not control the traditional structure, but we value it," said Francisco Caetano Boro, 30, Renamo's political representative in Inhambinga. "Frelimo tried to do away with the people's traditional culture which was lost and forgotten."

Two Irish Catholic priests, Eamon Aylward and Derric Lavery, said that the chiefs remained highly influential. "The people here do what their chiefs say," Father Aylward said. "If they say the people should register and vote for Renamo, they will do it."

Inhambinga—"a place of thorns"—is in Cheringoma district, in the heart of Renamo country and was cut off from the outside world for years. If the Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, is to stand a chance against President Chissano, he will have to win handsomely in rural areas such as Cheringoma, where 9,000 people have been registered to vote out of a national total of 6.2 million.

Two years after Renamo and Frelimo signed a peace agreement in Rome to end the 17-year civil war, Inhambinga became a prosperous railway junction 150 km north-west of the Sofala provincial capital of Beira, in the pride of the Renamo movement. It is the only big town still under Renamo control—a shattered town of 6,000 people.

Renamo's control is firm. Frelimo's first secretary in Inhambinga, Chavica Chave Tongo, refused to be interviewed until a senior Renamo official gave permission. "We are a bit apprehensive because of certain attitudes of some Renamo personalities," Mr Tongo said, outside the rubble of what was once party headquarters. "We recognize their local administration but other people try to cause trouble for us. They have come around saying that if we do not vote for Renamo, they are prepared to start two more wars."

Other people causing trouble include 600 demobilised rebel soldiers, who set up roadblocks and took hostages last month, demanding demobilisation pay and food aid. As a result, the Renamo administration had to hand over food that was intended for hungry civilians.

Mr Bero said he understood why the demobilised soldiers had decided to take hostages. "Only when people make a fuss do things begin to happen," he said. The crisis was defused only after the Renamo-run provincial government in Beira sent in the specially trained "rapid intervention police" at night to disperse the former soldiers and re-establish Renamo administrative control.

Some residents fear a resumption of the war if Renamo loses the elections, as most analysts predict. Several non-governmental organizations in the area have temporarily pulled out. But Renamo members said that they would never return to war. "Take up arms again? What for?" one mechanic asked. "God will never forgive us if we go back to war."
NEWS Frelimo 'corruption' blamed

Renamo is 'voters choice'

MAPUTO — Renamo, the former rebel movement during 16 years of brutal civil war in Mozambique, seems to be winning the hearts and minds of voters in the country's first multiparty general election, diplomats say.

The diplomats and aid workers in the former Portuguese colony now question past assumptions that the once Marxist Frelimo party will win an absolute majority in the 250-seat parliament.

Final results from the poll yesterday and today will not be known until mid-November because of the distances involved and an infrastructure destroyed by fighting that claimed tens of thousands of lives.

Disillusionment with perceived corruption within Frelimo, which has ruled since independence in 1975, has eroded its support among the 6.4 million registered voters, aid workers say. "It may seem ironic, after all those reports of Renamo cutting off civilians' ears, noses and eyelids, but they have strong support," said one foreign aid worker who has worked for the past two years in Renamo territory near the border with Malawi and in Quelimane.

"Many young people there have grown up thinking of Frelimo as the enemy," she said. "The movement is most popular among villagers in the northern and central hinterland of the war-devastated country, which is one of the world's poorest."

Diplomatic and aid sources say the guerrillas, who were criticized abroad for atrocities during the war which officially ended two years ago, have built up strong support for the poll. Presidential elections are also being held with incumbent President Joaquim Chissano widely seen as front-runner against Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama. But UN observers monitoring the poll have calculated how much it would cost to hold a second round of presidential elections if Chissano fails to win 50 percent or more. — Sapa-Reuters
and, murderers?

Who cares about elections, then, thieves, with the map until which we have spent millions on it...
Mozambique poll sh...
Mozambicans cast votes as Renamo boycotts poll

DALE LAUTENBACH
The Argus Foreign Service
JOHANNESBURG. — As polling began on schedule across Mozambique today, Renamo's sudden announcement of an election boycott was greeted with astonishment.

"I can't believe (Renamo leader) Afonso Dhlakama would be so stupid," said an ambassador in Maputo. "If this is true, it's the end of Renamo."

South African Director General of Foreign Affairs Rusty Evans was equally surprised. "How do you turn the elections off at this stage," he said of Renamo's announcement today that it was boycotting the poll for "technical reasons" of fraud and "not political reasons."

Reuter reports from Beira that Mr Dhlakama today met Portuguese, British and Zimbabwean diplomats who said they would try to persuade him to fly to Maputo to sort out problems that led to the boycott.

The Portuguese envoy, who declined to give his name, said the Renamo leader appeared relaxed but the envoy refused to say what was discussed.

A Dhlakama aide earlier confirmed that Renamo was boycotting the polls. "Yes, we are not taking part in the elections," he said.

Renamo sources said Mr Dhlakama was expected to fly to Maputo later in the day.

Sources close to the Renamo leader said he had been in a "fool mood" on election eve, accusing the UN of planning to stuff the ballot boxes.

Mr Evans represented South Africa with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Fahad at a Harare summit on Monday.

All Southern Africa's leaders committed themselves to supporting the democratic process in Mozambique and to not tolerating foul play.

Both Mr Dhlakama and Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano were in Harare for the meeting although the Renamo leader was not part of formal proceedings. Mr Evans said both leaders expressed several concerns but he at no stage had the sense that there was any idea of pulling out of the elections.

Mr Evans said he also failed to see how Renamo could today communicate its last-minute change of heart to its followers in a country with a communications infrastructure as poor as Mozambique's. "If it's a tactical move, it's ill-conceived."
AFRICA  President Chissano tipped to win majority in 250-seat Parliament

Eleven official parties

Stage set for first

Multipartty poll

"Final Stages"

"no more war!" he jokes:

"Philalama again pledges"

FACING THE MEDIA. President Chissano told journalists at a press conference at Palapye this week:

"Our conference is a part of the media. We must understand our role."

The president said that the conference was to gain a better understanding of the country and to provide the media with an opportunity to ask questions. He also spoke about the need for the media to be impartial and to provide accurate information.

The conference was attended by representatives from various media outlets including radio, television, and print. The president addressed questions regarding the current political situation and the government's plans for the future.

The conference concluded with a round of applause from the attendees. The president thanked everyone for their participation and expressed his hope for continued cooperation between the government and the media.

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AFRICA  President Chissano tipped to win majority in 250-seat Parliament

Eleven official parties

Stage set for first

Multipartty poll

"Final Stages"

"no more war!" he jokes:

"Philalama again pledges"
Renamo boycott ‘off’

‘GOOD news is the boycott declaration now seems to have been a flurry, and not a storm’

BY DALE LAUTENBACH
FOREIGN EDITOR

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama is expected to vote today in a dramatic turnaround from his election boycott which had threatened confusion for the past 24 hours.

As South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki flies to Maputo this morning, preparing to spearhead a high-powered regional initiative to get elections back on track, news of Dhlakama’s change of heart brightened the second day of polling in Mozambique.

South African Director-General of Foreign Affairs Rusty Evans said Dhlakama had met United Nations special representative Atilo Alves last night and told the latter that he would vote in Maputo today.

“The good news this morning is that the declaration of a boycott now seems to have been a flurry, and not a storm,” said Evans.

However, Mbeki’s visit to Maputo as representative of leaders of all the Frontline states remains crucial to a broader resolution of the crisis. Signalling the seriousness of the initiative, Mbeki is expected to be accompanied by Minister of Defence Joe Modise and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

Evans said the message that was being sent to Dhlakama was that the region, and the international community, did not take lightly the allegations of fraud and would not in any way tolerate corruption of the democratic process.

Dhlakama has declared fraud, the reason for his boycott and has described the elections as a farce.

Clearly, Mbeki must have been able to convince him that the UN will not turn a blind eye as Dhlakama has alleged, and what Mbeki takes to Maputo today is a regional guarantee that the process should not be corrupted.

Yesterday about half of Mozambique’s 6.4 million voters went to the country’s 7,500 polling stations apparently either ignorant of or ignoring Renamo’s boycott call.

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts throughout the day yesterday prepared for Mbeki’s visit. Frontline states chairman President Robert Mugabe was consulted and blessed the initiative as did President Mandela in the absence of the latter.

Pressure on Dhlakama to reverse his non-participation decision was intense yesterday with calls from the United Nations, Security Council, the United States, the European Union and the Commonwealth.

Mbeki has met Dhlakama before and established a degree of rapport.

There were no reports of intimidation or violence at the polling yesterday and the UN mission to Mozambique, Omuruhxw, reported that even at the Renamo stronghold of Manica, voting had gone ahead.

The Independent News Service reported that Dhlakama had told reporters yesterday that he did not plan to return to civil war, and had said he hoped the elections would be annulled and new ones organised in their place.

Dhlakama (41) said he had evidence of plans by Frelimo to rig the vote.

He claimed the National Elections Commission had not accounted for 1.9 million un-used registration papers and had not ensured that foreigners could not vote in elections.

He also claimed that his party agents were not being transported to the polling booths.

The South African National Defence Force, planning for possible violence from Mozambique’s elections, has deployed 350 troops on KwaZulu/Natal’s northern border, army officers said yesterday.
Mozambique's election

Mbeki in bid to rescue

SA beers up on border

High-level mission to reverse Renamo poll boycott

Mozambique prepares to transport ballot boxes to polling stations
Mozambique war drums beat again

Mozambican rebel movement Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama flew to the capital Maputo from Beira last night in what observers believe could lead to a change of mind over his boycott of the country’s elections. Radio reports from Mozambique said last night Dhlakama had held urgent discussions with United Nations officials and Southern African leaders who had urged him to rethink his move.

The decision by Renamo to boycott the country’s first multiparty elections has sent shock waves through Southern Africa, provoking fears of renewed war. African leaders fear Mozambique could be hit by the “Angolan syndrome.”

Angola’s Unita rebel leader Jonas Savimbi resumed the civil war there after rejecting defeat in UN-monitored elections in 1992 that ended an 18-month ceasefire with the Luanda government.

Dhlakama said yesterday his movement’s decision to boycott the elections was final. “We have made this decision because we have proof that there will be massive fraud in this election. It is not an election, it is a picnic we want new elections,” he told journalists in Beira.

Dhlakama said, however, he would not return to war “I am tired of telling people that I am not going back to war. I will be in peaceful civilian opposition.” In early October, Namibian President Sam Nujoma said “We urge the Renamo leadership to seriously and urgently reconsider the decision not to participate in the general elections. Their withdrawal is a serious setback to the establishment of a true democracy in Mozambique and poses a renewed threat to national reconciliation in a country torn apart by civil war for so many years.”

South African Foreign Ministry sources said the situation was confused and it was too early for an official statement. There was no immediate official comment from Zimbabwe, whose President Robert Mugabe hosted a summit of Southern African leaders in Harare on Tuesday where they said they would take “appropriate action”, possibly military, to ensure peace in Mozambique. — Sapa-Reuters
Dhlakama call for election boycott falling on deaf ears

MAPUTO. — Mozambicans vote for a second day today amid signs that the war-weary population will largely ignore an 11th-hour demand from the Renamo opposition to boycott the election.

The boycott call, issued by the former rebel movement hours before the two-day election began yesterday, surprised both Mozambicans and foreign governments, who feared a return to civil war.

"All we want is to rebuild our lives in peace," said a middle-aged Maputo resident, his legs aching from queuing for hours to vote.

Officials of the independent National Electoral Commission said about half the 6.4 million voters had ignored the boycott call of Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, issued on the grounds of alleged fraud.

"Until we have other information, we can say the elections were free and fair today," electoral official Manael Frank, a Renamo member, told reporters.

"Signs are that voting is going normally, even in Renamo areas. We expect it to continue like this on the second day."

Mr Dhlakama demanded new polls and said his boycott decision, joined by three small opposition parties, was final. But he said he would not return to the 16-year war which ended with a peace accord two years ago.

"The elections are fraudulent," he told reporters on leaving his home in Beira for the capital Maputo yesterday.

President Joaquim Chissano, whose rival Frelimo party is expected to win Mozambique's first democratic elections, appealed in a broadcast to Mozambicans last night for a big turnout.

He said Mozambicans were tired of the fighting, which has killed hundreds of thousands of people and helped to reduce the country to one of the world's poorest.

Some diplomats suggested Mr Dhlakama was trying to gain leverage to force a reluctant President Chissano to include him in a future government of national unity.

But a senior Renamo official said it was unclear, even to party officials, why Mr Dhlakama had acted as he did. — Sapa-Reuters
Boycott move fails to stop vote

MAPUTO — Mozambique’s first multi-party elections began yester-
day despite a surprise boycott by former rebels that raised fears of
new conflict in a country trying to leave behind its devastating
history of civil war.

The Mozambique National Resis-
tance, Renamo, one of the two main
parties in the vote, shocked organi-
sers with its last-minute announcement it
was pulling out of the elections after
two years of preparation. It said it
feared irregularities in vote proce-
dures would allow fraud.

Elections commission chairman Mr
Brazao Mazula went on national TV to
urge calm and say the two-day vote
would proceed as planned. He termed
the Renamo pullout illegal.

US ambassador Mr Deus Jett said
the objections raised by Renamo were
"simply logistical problems that will
be worked out" during the day.

‘Cheating already’

But the Renamo leader, Mr Afonso
Dhlakama, interviewed on Portuguese
Radio Nova, condemned the voting
under way as "a tasteless joke."

"Cheating is already in play. No one
wants to boycott the elections, but
they had to."

His movement waged a civil war
against the leftist government for 15
years that left an estimated 600,000
people dead. Yesterday, however, he
said he was not contemplating a re-
turn to the battlefield.

Meanwhile South Africa has beefed
up its security along the border with
Mozambique with armed border
guards patrolling the area. There are
fears that if fighting breaks out in
Mozambique thousands of refugees
could flee into KwaZulu-Natal.

Despite the boycott, voters lined up
for hours in Maputo. People were also
standing in lengthy lines in the north-
ern Renamo stronghold of Nampula.

The rebels and President Joaquim
Chissano’s Mozambique Popular
Front were expected to win almost all
of the 250 parliament seats. Mr Chis-
sano was favored to gain the presiden-
cy and had indicated he might give Mr
Dhlakama a post.

Renewed fighting?

A UN spokesperson, Ms Michelle de
Rosset, said it was unclear how a with-
drawal by the rebels would work. Bal-
lots include Renamo candidates, and
poor communications make it difficult
to spread a boycott message.

If the rebels reject the election, it
could set the stage for renewed fight-
ing like that which wracked Angola
when the former Unita rebel move-
ment lost elections in 1992.

German Foreign Minister Mr Klaus
Kinkel, speaking on behalf of the
European Union, said Renamo’s ob-
jection that a fair election could not
be guaranteed was not convincing.

He noted in a statement that more
than 2,000 international observers
were present. — Sapa-Reuters-AP
Renamo ends poll boycott

MAPUTO. — Mozambique's main opposition party Renamo yesterday ended its boycott of the country's first multi-party elections, and the country's independent National Electoral Commission (CNE) extended the elections for an extra day.

Renamo had called for a boycott just hours before polls opened on Thursday.

Renamo leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama said he had decided to withdraw from the elections because of alleged evidence of plans by the President Joauchim Chissano's Frelimo party to rig the vote.

The end to the boycott came as South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki travelled to Maputo early yesterday in a bid to convince Renamo to take part in the elections.

It was reported from Maputo yesterday that Mr Mbeki had consulted President Chissano and Mr Dhlakama in preparation for the initiative.

Meanwhile, kwazulu/Natal is preparing for a flood of Mozambican refugees and hundreds of soldiers have been deployed on the border as fears of an election collapse run high.

And senior SA National Defence Force officers expressed grave concern that the Mozambican defence force (FADMM) — numbering only about 12,500 — would not be able to deal with a deterioration in the security situation.

Many weapons caches from Renamo's 10-year guerrilla war against the ruling Frelimo party still remained unearthed and "the conflict risk is quite great," said Major Andries Koen.

It was known that an "armed group of 12,000 Renamo and Zimbabwean dissidents is in place to assist Renamo if the armed struggle resumes", he said.

The departments of health and home affairs and security forces had identified a massive piece of land with electricity and fresh water supplies at Manguzi, near Kosi Bay, which could accommodate up to a million people.

SANDF intelligence officer Lt-Col Bram van Wyk said the refugee camp could be "up and running to cater for about 5,000 refugees within four hours'.

However, the Renamo leader said yesterday the rebels would not return to war.

Col van Wyk said South African military intervention in Mozambique could not be ruled out but would only occur with United Nations Security Council approval.

— Sapa-AFP, Own Correspondent
Renamo ends poll boycott

Mbeki to talk with leaders

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Sir Richard on Robben Island visit

FILM director Lord Richard Attenborough, who made Gandhi and Cry Freedom, paid a "reverent" visit to Robben Island yesterday.

Sir Richard, in South Africa as a United Nations Children's Fund goodwill ambassador promoting children's rights, and going anywhere associated with President Nelson Mandela was "revered".

The experience was similar to visiting Gandhi's home in India.

Sir Richard and his wife Sheila were welcomed at the opening of the International Donna Development Conference on Wednesday.

He was at the conference to find out where children fitted into the BDP and hoped to involve the arts in promoting children's needs.

He discussed setting up drama workshops and film-making schemes with Arts and Culture Minister Dr Ben Ngubane and his deputy Mrs Winnie Mandela.

Historic visit. British film-maker and human rights champion Lord Richard Attenborough paid Robben Island a "reverent" visit yesterday. He is in South Africa as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund and attended the International Donna Development Conference in Cape Town. He also had discussions with Arts and Culture Minister Dr Ben Ngubane and his deputy Mrs Winnie Mandela.

Sir Richard and his wife Sheila.
Military threat 'saved election'

Dhlakama pressured into climbdown

MAPUTO Tough talking, backed by the threat of possible military intervention, helped persuade former rebel RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama to lift his eleventh-hour boycott of Mozambique's first multiparty election yesterday.

Dhlakama voted in Maputo yesterday after ending the boycott that had sent shock waves through southern Africa. The Independent National Electoral Commission has extended the deadline for the election, which began on Thursday, by a day until today.

"Dhlakama was told he had no alternative and he was divorced for the political wilderness if he didn't take part," said Gregor von Lorenz, director of studies at the South African Institute for International Affairs. "Military intervention was also a possibility. The fact that Zimbawe had committed troops to the situation was a strong incentive to Dhlakama to sit up and take notice."

See Page 2

Mills said the sending by South Africa of its deputy president Thabo Mbeki and deputy foreign minister, Adila Padar, with the backing of other regional states, to pressure Dhlakama had signaled the RENAMO leader the depth of anger of the boycott, which had threatened to undo years of work to restore peace in the war-weary southern African country.

"I am going to vote," Dhlakama told a news conference at the gates of his residence at Maputo yesterday, 24 hours after saying the election would be a sham and he wanted new polls.

Dhlakama, dressed in an immaculate black suit, white shirt and shiny black tie, joked and joked with supporters as he voted in the police station in the capital. The former rebel leader refused to comment on the crush of journalists on his arrival but said he would vote for his former rebel party RENAMO.

The boycott decision to lift the boycott was the only course left to Dhlakama, he added. "We are going to vote," he said.

But it was a slightly different story for the main opposition party, thePFREMO, which is also run by former rebels and has won a majority of the seats in the previous election.

The decision to lift the boycott was a major setback for the government, which had been hoping for a peaceful election.

Dhlakama, who has been fighting for independence since 1976, said his decision was a result of the pressure from South Africa and other regional states.

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Boycott of elections called off

MAPUTO — Mozambique's former rebel leader has called off a boycott of the country's first free elections and cast his vote, bringing hope of a successful end to the peace process as officials extended the poll.

"Renamo does not want to sabotage the elections and I call on all our supporters to vote," Afonso Dhlakama said.

"Today is a festival for Mozambique," he added.

The National Elections Commission later stated that voting would continue for a third day today, but did not directly refer to a call Mr Dhlakama made for an extension and for a fraud inquiry before the end of the election.

"My victory lies in that there are elections in Mozambique," Mr Dhlakama said when he cast his vote here as reports across the country said Mozambicans were still flocking to polling stations.

"Mr Dhlakama's decision has lifted a shadow," said Aldo Ajello, head of the UN operation in Mozambique.

"Mozambique can enjoy a great festival of democracy."

The 41-year-old bush warrior, the main rival in the presidential race to the incumbent head of state and Frelimo chief Joaquim Chissano, had announced the boycott on Thursday.

"I don't want to have to accept a false result, because I don't want a false president," Mr Dhlakama said then, causing consternation here and abroad.

He changed his mind after talks with Mr Ajello and ambassadors from Portugal, the United States, France, Britain, Germany and Italy, who jointly form the Supervision and Control Commission (CSC) overseeing the poll.

Mr Dhlakama said he was "very satisfied" with a document signed by the CSC, which "recognises that the National Elections Commission has not been capable of providing satisfactory answers to the objections raised by Renamo."

The statement said the CSC "will make every effort to examine the complaints in thorough fashion before the end of the vote", and commended Mr Dhlakama for his change of heart "in spite of the reservations expressed in the past few days."

"Elections are a very nervous time," said British envoy Richard Edis.

"I think Mr Dhlakama changed his mind after natural reflection and after receiving many messages from the international community urging him to join the voting."

The main opposition leader's decision was also welcomed by Mozambique's 10 southern and eastern African partners in the Frontline States group, currently chaired by Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe.

In a statement the Frontline States, which have assumed a regional peacekeeping role, said Mr Dhlakama changed his mind "following a lengthy telephone conversation on Thursday" with Mr Mugabe.

Renamo was apparently humiliated on Tuesday by implicit Frontline backing for Frelimo — which Zimbabwean troops supported during their 16-year civil war — when the group called Mr Dhlakama and Mr Chissano to a summit and warned of possible military intervention in the event of trouble.

Picture, page 4
COUNTING

The town hall was packed with people counting ballots as the sun set. The atmosphere was one of excitement and anticipation as the results began to come in.

Marzio - Inaugural Press

TAKES LEAD

Chissinoa

Elections
AFRICA Delay in Mozambique election

Vote counting begins in Mozambique

GOOD TURNOUT Model election despite Renamo crying foul over fraud:

M APUOTO — Vote-counting in Mozambique’s first multiparty elections was under way yesterday after officials reported a 90 percent turnout among the Southern African country’s 6.4 million voters.

Fears that the turnout would be badly affected by 75 percent illiteracy, logistical problems and an initial boycott by the main opposition Renamo movement proved unfounded in an election which international observers termed a model for Africa.

“The people of Mozambique provided us a lesson in democracy. This process was a great sign for the rest of Africa,” said Italian churchman Don Mateo Zuppi.

He helped to negotiate the 1992 unsupervised peace accords which ended 16 years of civil war between Afonso Dhlakama’s Renamo and President Joaquim Chissano’s ruling Frelimo.

Voters had a choice between 12 presidential contenders and 14 political groups seeking places in the 250-seat National Assembly.

Manuel Frank, spokesman for the National Electoral Commission, said that due to the laborious process of checking ballots in a country with a shattered infrastructure, complete results might not be known for two weeks.

Fears of a return to war emerged when Dhlakama cried fraud just hours before polls opened on Thursday and called on his supporters to boycott the election.

This sent tremors through southern Africa, whose leaders feared a repeat of the situation in Angola where Unita rebels rejected defeat in 1992 elections and lined up a bitter bush war.

But Dhlakama reversed his decision on Friday under intense international pressure — and a defiance of the boycott by many Renamo members.

Diplomats said they expected him to repeat his fraud allegations before and after the results were announced.

But they believed his assurances that he would not return to war.

“He never questioned the Rome (ceasefire) agreements,” said Zuppi, who played a key role, with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, in persuading the Renamo chief to lift the boycott.

Chissano and Frelimo, which has ruled since independence from Portugal in 1975, was tipped to win the elections, with Renamo picking up votes in the populous north and centre of the country.

“We will be working hard in the coming days to ensure the results will be accepted by all parties and that it will be judged free and fair,” said Zuppi — Sapa-Reuters.
On the edge

Making history ... a National Election Commission official displays a ballot paper to other officials in Maputo yesterday to confirm the vote in Mozambique's general election

Picture Gary Bernard

Chissano appears well in the lead

Star 31/10/94

BY DUNCAN GUY
STAR FOREIGN SERVICE

Maputo — Mozambique's National Election Commission should be able to begin publishing election results towards the end of the week, commission president Branco Muzila said at a press conference yesterday.

He confirmed that around 90 percent of the war-battered country's 6.7 million registered voters had cast their ballots.

When the Star Foreign Service visited polling stations in Maputo yesterday, counting was in progress for the presidential ballot, with President Joaquim Chissano well in the lead.

Sapa-Reuters reports that Chissano took a substantial lead in early unofficial results yesterday.

The national news agency AIM said Chissano had received 353,468 votes to 4,446 for his rival, Renamo opposition leader Afonso Dhlakama, as counting got underway.
Frelimo predicts it will win Mozambican election

MAPUTO. — Mozambique's ruling Frelimo party says early unofficial results show it will win the country's first multi-party election with just over 50 percent of the vote.

A Frelimo projection yesterday said parliamentary results so far indicated the party would poll 58.22 percent against 21.8 percent for Renamo.

It gave Frelimo leader President Joaquim Chissano 60.71 percent and Renamo chief Afonso Dhlakama 29.64 percent in the presidential poll.

It was not clear how Frelimo arrived at the projection.

Final results are not expected for two weeks and political analysts said it was far too early to predict a solid trend, especially in the north and central regions where Renamo had traditionally commanded support.

Voting passed relatively peacefully, but diplomats and analysts say the potential for violence is high in the impoverished nation as it tries to heal the wounds of civil war.

Mr. Chissano, in a front-page interview with the state-run Notícias newspaper, urged Mozambicans to stay calm.

"I appeal to the public not to let yourselves be carried away by speculation which might lead to discouragement or to fears about your safety," he said.

Mr. Dhlakama caused consternation when he called for a boycott of the election just as voting was about to start.

Mr. Dhlakama, who said the elections were rigged, later lifted the boycott after pressure from Mozambique's southern African neighbours.

United Nations special envoy Aldo Ajello has been consulting both Mr. Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama to try to ensure post-election peace.

An estimated 90 percent of the 6.4 million registered voters voted, an extremely high number for a country with high illiteracy and transport and communications devastated by civil war — Reuter.
Frelimo ahead in votes

Maputo — Mozambique’s governing party has taken a substantial lead in the country’s first multiparty election, according to an unofficial survey yesterday by the United Nations.

President Joaquim Chissano and his Mozambique Liberation Front, Frelimo, has just over 50 percent of the vote, based on results randomly selected from about 400 polling stations nationwide, a UN source said.

Frelimo’s main opposition, the former rebel Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, has about 30 percent of the vote, according to the survey.

The UN has not yet received reports from northern areas considered Renamo strongholds. But the source said the trend is unlikely to change even if Renamo sweeps those areas, meaning Frelimo will likely win a majority of the 250 parliamentary seats and Chissano will reach the 50 percent threshold in presidential voting to avoid a run-off election.

The official count by the National Election Commission is expected late this week. Poor roads and communications make counting a slow process.

The UN conducted its survey to determine whether it might have to plan for a presidential run-off vote. More than 6,000 UN peacekeepers and administrators are helping to provide security and prepare for the election.

Voting on Thursday, Friday and Saturday was the climax of two years of preparation that began when Frelimo and Renamo signed a 1992 treaty ending their 15-year civil war.

Some 600,000 people have died because of fighting, famine and disease before the truce was struck and the country’s economy was destroyed. The election is seen as a chance to begin rebuilding and reform.

Election officials said 80 to 90 percent of the 6.3 million registered voters went to the polls.

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama was making plans to meet Chissano yesterday, an aide said.

“Renamo and Frelimo are the two major parties,” said Raul Domingos, a top adviser to Dhlakama. “We need to discuss the situation of the country.”

Domingos would not say whether the two leaders will discuss the election results.

Dhlakama has raised fears of renewed conflict with a last-minute protest last Thursday that the election was open to fraud, but he called off the failed boycott the next day.

Maputo newspapers reported yesterday that Dhlakama met with Brazzaville’s Mzula, head of the election commission, and pledged to accept the results if the commission deemed the vote free and fair — Sapa-AP
Mozambique poll results trickle in

Maputo — Mozambique's National Election Commission has been slow in issuing results from last week's presidential and parliamentary elections.

Yesterday, officials from Maputo travelled to the country's nine other provincial capitals to fetch ballot papers.

Reuters reports that with a tiny percentage of votes counted, the ruling Frelimo party has already claimed to be 50 percent ahead in unofficial counts (218).

A summary of unofficial results from 355 polling stations, out of more than 7,400, gave President Joaquim Chissano 190,276 votes in the presidential ballot.

His nearest rival, Renamo's Afonso Dhlakama, had 75,734 votes in the presidential race.

In the party ballot for the 250-seat national assembly, Frelimo had polled 168,940 and Renamo 88,754.

But the majority of results available so far come from Frelimo strongholds in the south and in the far north.

Dhlakama is winning by a two-to-one margin in Beira, and by an even larger margin elsewhere in his home province of Sofala.

The patchy results available from Nampula show Dhlakama and Renamo winning in coastal areas, but Chissano and Frelimo doing well in the interior.

Rioting has broken out in several parts of the country as polling station staff demand more money from the local offices of the electoral administration technical secretariat.
UN sees no sign of fraud in Mozambique poll — official

The Argus Foreign Service

MAPUTO. — The 2300 United Nations observers in Mozambique saw no signs of fraud or serious irregularities in the country’s first multiparty elections, held last week, says UN special representative Aldo Ajello.

It remains unlikely that the two main contenders, President Joaquim Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, will meet for negotiations until final results have been announced.

It is expected that Renamo, which is likely to be a large opposition party, could be offered a role in the country’s administration.

While the days of ballot counting have been marked by demonstrations as officials demand more pay, Mr Ajello yesterday described the three days of voting as “among the best-organised of elections in developing countries, and certainly in Southern Africa”.

He said the UN observation of the polls “would not support any possible claim of fraud or intimidation or any other pattern of incidents that could have affected the credibility of the elections.” The UN had received “no information about any major irregularity, incident or breach of the electoral law which could have adversely affected the validity of the elections.”

The UN will give its final verdict only when the counting of votes is over and the results are announced, at the earliest later this week.

The local media have conducted their own tallies at 25 percent of polling stations, showing Mr Chissano ahead of Mr Dhlakama by 851,773 votes to 409,925 in the presidential election.

In the parliamentary election, these polling stations show 700,205 votes for Frelimo against 409,923 for Renamo.

But this sample of polling stations is focused on the easily accessible southern four provinces where Mr Chissano and Frelimo enjoy an overwhelming advantage.

Meanwhile, riots and other disturbances by polling station staff demanding more money for their four days of work are spreading across the country.
Pressure is on for Mozambican unity

HARAR: — Zimbabwe, wary of a fresh civil war breaking out in neighbouring Mozambique, had increased pressure on President Joaquim Chissano to form a post-election unity government, official Zimbabwean sources said yesterday.

They are giving strong advice that it is in Mozambique's national interest that Frelimo (the Mozambique Liberation Front) and Renamo (the Mozambique National Resistance) work together in a government of national unity, a source said.

Chissano and his ruling Frelimo party, which has governed Mozambique since it gained independence from Portugal in 1975, are expected to retain power after the general election held late last month.

His main rival, Afonso Dhlakama of Renamo, which waged a 16-year guerrilla fight against Frelimo until 1992, is trailing second in the polls.

The first official results of the election showed Chissano and his ruling party well ahead of his former rebel challengers.

The National Elections Commission released results on Monday from more than 2,000 of the country's 7,444 polling stations. Chissano had 62% so far in the presidential race, compared to 26% for Dhlakama.

In the separate vote for parliament, Frelimo led with 52% to Renamo's 39%.

Unofficial results compiled by various news agencies since the October 27-28 election have also shown Chissano and Frelimo leading by a significant margin.

Final results, in which some 30% of the 3.5 million registered voters have yet to be counted, are expected some time next week.

Many ordinary Mozambicans and governments around the region fear Renamo could resume its war if it is left out of new power structures in the country.

"What we (countries in the region) are saying is that Frelimo must not leave it to chance a government of national unity will help Mozambique's reconciliation process," a Zimbabwean foreign affairs official said.

He said Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, who left Harare for a conference in France at the weekend, was coordinating a regional campaign for a unity government in Mozambique.

The idea, the official said, was backed strongly by SA, Malawi and Zambia.

"Everyone is tired of war," he said.

Three members of the SA Cabinet, Defence Minister Joe Modise, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Fahad, flew to Maputo yesterday for meetings with top political leaders and UN officials overseeing Mozambique's peace process.

The Foreign Ministry said from Pretoria the ministers would "reaffirm SA's commitment to the peace process and economic reconstruction of Mozambique".

Landlocked Zimbabwe, which has a border with Mozambique stretching hundreds of kilometres, backed Frelimo militarily against Renamo and still maintains a token troop presence in the Beira Corridor — one of its key trade routes to the Indian Ocean.

"Although we have threatened to intervene again if Renamo is foolish enough to launch another conflict, deescalation is the only way to work for unity in Mozambique," another source said — Sapa-Reuters.
Primero win likely, but Renamo a major force
Mozambique results delayed

DUNCAN GUY
The Argus Foreign Service

MAPUTO. - The official results of Mozambique's elections will be released next week and not this weekend, according to the national elections commission (CNE)

Sunday — 15 days after the last day of voting last month — had been the target for the final, official announcement of both the party and presidential ballots.

They don't want to make mistakes.

The slowness has also allowed time for parties, notably the former rebel movement Renamo, to come up with allegations of fraud and irregularities which earlier this week were given attention by a high-level South African delegation.

So far the ruling Frelimo party is well in the lead in the 28 percent of the party ballot already counted, doing particularly well in the southern provinces. Renamo has the upper hand in the central and northern provinces.

In the presidential election, President Joaquim Chissano appears to be well ahead of Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama.
Spoils delay Mozambican poll results

MAPUTO — A large number of spoiled ballots was delaying the counting in Mozambique’s first multiparty elections, the National Election Commission said yesterday.

The ruling Frelimo and President Joaquim Chissano were leading, according to partial results compiled by the commission and news agencies from the October 27-29 parliamentary and presidential elections.

The commission had planned to make final results public next Tuesday, but said yesterday the announcement would be delayed indefinitely.

Officials said they must review some 250,000 votes that were declared invalid during counting at more than 7,000 polling stations.

Political parties have complained that ballots that should have been counted were thrown out, and election officials indicated they would accept many of the invalidated ballots.

Voters had the choice of marking their ballots with a cross or a thumb dipped in ink. Some voters used both methods and their ballots were invalidated even in cases where two marks indicated a preference for a single candidate.

In other cases, voters made their crosses over pictures of their candidates instead of in the boxes where they should have indicated their choices. Such ballots were accepted at some polling stations but rejected at others.

The elections commission has not released results since Monday, when its count of about 30 percent of the ballots showed Chissano with 62 percent of the vote, compared with 26 percent for his nearest challenger, former rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama.

Chissano’s Frelimo led with 52 percent in the parliamentary race, while Dhlakama’s Renamo had 40 percent of the vote.

Unofficial results compiled by various news agencies also have shown Chissano and Frelimo in the lead. But Renamo was gaining enough support to be a viable check on Frelimo, which had enjoyed absolute power since independence from Portuguese colonial rule in 1975.

The vote came two years after Frelimo and Renamo signed a treaty ending 15 years of civil war that devastated the southeast African nation, leaving it dependent on foreign money for most of its budget. — Sapa-AP
The induna fetched a bowl of water to meet the people who had arrived to the village. The woman, dressed in traditional attire, greeted them warmly. The man arrived with a group of people, including two children and a baby in a carrier. They had travelled a long distance, but were relieved to be in the safety of their village. The induna introduced them to the village headman, who welcomed them and offered them food and shelter for the night.

Though the programme is nearing its conclusion, the number of refugees willing to return has dwindled to a trickle. In Mhla, particularly, the Mozambicans — many of whom have been there between six and nine years — are preparing for the return journey. They were expecting us. The people of Rukwa had agreed to look after their children while they stayed — and their main reason is fear.

The grey-haired induna opened the proceedings with a courteous welcome. The people had had rain, he said, but water was still a problem. The women had to walk 4 km to the nearest tap to fetch supplies.

"But we do not complain," he said. "We are happy here. The people of Gazankulu have been good to us. They gave us a place to stay when we fled the bullets."

"Maybe it would be easier in Mozambique?" No, said the induna. Much as he and the villagers wanted to return to the land of their ancestors, things there were different. They knew of the Peace Accord, but what would happen if Renamo, like UNITA in Angola, refused to accept the election result?

Someone said Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama had been quoted on radio as promising that when he came into power he would "chase the Shangana from Gaza Province back to Gazankulu". How could they be sure Renamo soldiers would not be waiting for them in Mozambique?

A woman look up from the induna. "We do not like to talk about what has happened," she said. "When we ran away from the bullets, we left behind the bodies of our people who were killed. We did not bury them. Their bones have been bleached by the sun. How can we go back there now?"

They had suffered greatly but they had found peace in their new country - South Africa. Now they wanted their position legalized — and to be left alone (212).

They had heard that when the Portuguese Mozambicans came to South Africa after independence in 1975, the government had accepted them as immigrants. Could not the new Government of National Unity accept them, too? They had, after all, been here many years.

A young man entered the debate. "We Mozambicans are hard-working," he said. "We want jobs but we are not allowed to work."

Donkey carts

"I can make carts, the kind donkeys pull. I know I could sell them, but if I chop a branch off a tree I am arrested. We can make bowls and spoons and many things of wood, but we have no resources."

A middle-aged man said food aid to the refugees had been stopped, but though they had no jobs, paper or money, they were not starving. They managed to survive on what they grew and the little money they earned working for local people. He, for instance, had been paid to plough a field. What he earned, he shared.

A man shook his head. They had heard, he said, of the land mines. His group had come from an area where there had been fierce fighting. If they went back, where would the children play? How could the women gather firewood or fetch water? Were they going home to die or to be married?

And what of the children at school in South Africa? Some would be writing matric soon. They did not want their education disrupted. They wanted them to learn English.

An older woman said her daughters had married South Africans. If she returned home alone, who would help her? Another woman stood up to speak. "We do not listen to the nasty things people say about us," she said. "But why are we afraid of the rumours? They say that soldiers will come with trucks, surround our village and take us back to Mozambique by force. We do not know if this is true. But we also do not know if it is untrue. We are afraid. We do not sleep at nights. There is always fear in our stomachs."

Would it not be better if they returned to Mozambique with the United Nations so that they could be comfortably settled and cared for? The UN had offered to transport their possessions and to give them food and aid until they were re-established.

"No!" said a tall young woman. "We came here with nothing. If we are taken away by force, we will go with nothing. We may have to accept our fate, but we will not go willingly."

Calmly, dispassionately, the villagers in concilium made their points. After years of living in the area, they wanted to be accepted as fellow South Africans. They did not want to be uprooted again.

The induna spoke again. He had been back to Mozambique and found the country changed. The drought there would make it impossible to grow crops. He had priced mealie meal and found it cost much, much more than in South Africa. Here, in his village, their groundnuts, cowpeas and mealies were flourishing.

"If we go back, we will starve," he said. "Please Do not force us to return. Here we are at peace. There we do not know what awaits us."

Please don’t send us back to land of war!"
Renamo ‘occupation’ feared

MAPUTO — Mozambique’s former rebels are preparing to occupy the port city of Beira and the northern town of Nampula because they appear to be losing the first free elections, a government official charged yesterday.

“It seems that demobilized soldiers of Renamo are returning to their bases, with arms, while armed groups have been spotted around Nampula,” provincial governor Alfredo Gamito said.

Renamo was also planning to occupy Beira, Mozambique’s second city, and the stronghold of former rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama, sources in the ruling Frelimo party said.

UN officials overseeing the peace process have expressed scepticism over the reports.

Dhlakama rejected allegations that he was preparing to return to war and said they were lies fabricated by Frelimo.

“It’s a disinformation campaign by the Frelimo party,” he said.

“I don’t know if (President) Joaquim Chissano is behind this, but I think Frelimo is afraid, because despite fraud in the elections, Renamo has won a strong position in parliament.”

An alleged Renamo document reprinted in the pro-Frelimo Domingo newspaper on Sunday described plans for reorganizing Dhlakama’s ex-guerrilla forces to contest their forecast defeat in the historic elections, held on October 27-28 under a peace accord ending more than 16 years of civil war.

Dhlakama said “Perhaps Frelimo thinks one day we will get irritated and go back to the bush, but I want to assure Mozambicans, we are intelligent, we can negotiate.”

Gamito said the Nampula provincial government and police and UN peacekeeping forces were monitoring developments.

The latest poll results indicated that Chissano would maintain his lead. Officials said final results would be announced by tomorrow night.

Figures released so far give Chissano a clear lead in the presidential poll and his ruling Frelimo party a narrower advantage in the race for the 250-seat parliament.

Renamo and Dhlakama were placed second in both presidential and parliamentary contests.

Independent National Electoral Commission head Brasao Mansa said the deadline for announcing the results had been extended by two days because of deliberations over a large number of spoiled ballots.

The other 10 presidential candidates and 12 parties or coalitions picked up only a handful of votes.

Mansa said that by Sunday night Frelimo, which has ruled since independence in 1975, had garnered more than 1.73-million votes, or nearly 46% in the parliamentary contest. Renamo had 1.41-million, or 37%.

A small coalition, the Democratic Union, had picked up just more than the 5% needed to win seats in parliament.

In the presidential elections, Chissano won nearly 2.2-million votes, or 55% Dhlakama trailed with 1.3-million votes, or 33% — Sapa-AFP-Reuters.
It said Chissano won the presidential race outright after the first round of elections with 53.3 percent of the votes. Chissano's main rival, Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, scored 33.7 percent of the vote.

The results from the October poll were originally scheduled to be announced on November 16, but were delayed because of "technical" problems. Of the 12 other parties that took part in the election, only the Uniao Democrática (UD) won more than the five percent necessary for parliamentary representation, tallying 5.1 percent.

Frelimo will now, for the first time since independence in 1975, have to face up to a strong opposition in parliament.

Mozambique's police were placed on full alert on Friday as the country braced for the announcement of the final results.

Renamo, renowned for terrorist tactics during the 16-year civil war, claims it forced the ex-communist Frelimo to accept a multiparty regime. - Sapa-AFP.
Test of peace faces Mozambique

A RUINED economy and lack of experience in democracy are problems, writes Judith Matloff

MULTIPARTY elections have brought Mozambique back from the depths of civil war, but huge problems loom for a desperately poor country with no experience in democracy.

The former rebel movement Renamo's acceptance of its defeat by President Joaquim Chissano and his ruling Frelimo party in last month's general elections has consolidated 1992 peace accords.

It also aligned Mozambique with the southern African fraternity which has made peaceful transitions to pluralism — South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

But with the economy devastated by drought and nearly 20 years of war and failed socialist experiments, Mozambique must compete with richer, more strategic neighbours for the foreign aid on which it depends.

Doubts also loom over how Frelimo, which has ruled since independence from Portugal in 1975, will deal with political opposition and deepening regional and ethnic divisions.

"War is unlikely now that (Renamo leader Afonso) Dhlakama has accepted the results," said one Western diplomat. "The elections were just one stage. Hard work lies ahead."

Dhlakama ... his acceptance of the election results reduces the risk of war.

Pebacks have abated that Renamo (Mozambican National Resistance) will resume its insurrection in the way that Unita rebels did in Angola Military conflict is unlikely when thousands of UN peacekeepers leave Mozambique.

But diplomats foresee an accompanying shrinkage of foreign economy aid.

They expect social unrest over a ruined economy which exports mainly cashew nuts and is strained by the homecoming of millions of refugees and a return to civilian life for 60,000 unskilled former soldiers.

Food self-sufficiency is a distant dream. Infrastructure will take years to repair. Foreign investors have largely held off from Mozambique's tourism, agricultural and reconstruction potential until after the poll and many are still debating the risks.

On the political front, it is unclear what the role of the new 250-seat parliament will be. Frelimo has 129 seats — a slim majority if, as most expect, Renamo and the small UD (Democratic Union) present a united front with their respective 112 and nine seats.

Chissano, who won 55 percent of the votes for the presidency over Dhlakama's 33 percent, has resisted international pressure to form a coalition government akin to South Africa's. The notion is unacceptable to party hardliners.

In Saturday's victory speech, Chissano said the opposition was best represented in parliament and society. But he said he would open dialogue with other parties to form a "competent and efficient" government.

Diplomats say this could mean including opposition figures in the cabinet due to be formed by mid-December, though probably not Dhlakama himself.

Dhlakama appeared on Saturday to accept gracefully his role as chief opposition leader. But he would undoubtedly be less sanguine if Chissano failed to appoint Renamo governors to at least some of the central and northern provinces where the party did well — Tete, Nampula, Zambezia, Sofala and Manica.

A strong regional divide between the two parties' traditional strongholds — Frelimo swept the south, including the capital Maputo — has raised concerns about ethnic splits deepening.

"A big problem we now face is building up trust," said Aldo Ajello, the UN special representative who has oversaw the peace accords. — Sapa-Reuters
Chissano’s poll win now official

Maputo — Almost three weeks after the polls closed, Mozambique’s Independent National Elections Commission (CNE) finally announced the definitive results of last month’s general elections at midday on Saturday.

It was something of an anti-climax, since it had been possible to collate results from the notices posted at polling stations and dozens of election offices throughout the country.

The CNE confirmed that Joaquim Chissano has been re-elected as president, and his Frelimo party has an overall majority in parliament.

Chissano won 2.6 million votes (53.3 percent) to 1.7 million (37.7 percent) for Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the former rebel movement Renamo. The rest of the votes were divided among 10 minor candidates.

In the parliamentary election, Frelimo won 122 seats, Renamo won 59.3 percent of the vote, old 12 seats The Democratic Union (UD), a coalition of three small and virtually unknown opposition parties, picked up 17 percent, just enough to secure parliamentary representation. It has nine seats.

Frelimo thus has an overall majority in parliament of just eight, which should guarantee some cliffhanging votes.

The UD’s surprisingly good showing is due perhaps to its good fortune in coming last in the lottery for places on the ballot paper (2).

Chissano occupied the bottom position on the presidential ballot paper, and had repeatedly told his supporters to “vote for the bottom name.” It seems that a sizeable minority of illiterate Frelimo supporters mistakenly voted for the UD on the parliamentary ballot paper.

In a broadcast victory speech, Chissano said he would listen to "other thoughtful voices" before appointing a prime minister and other government members.

He stressed that “competence and efficiency” would be the key criteria in selecting them.

Dignified status

Chissano is unlikely to invite Renamo members into the government. He made it clear that the government would implement Frelimo’s programme. He did not mention Dhlakama by name, but stressed that the runner-up in the presidential election should be given a “dignified status.”

Dhlakama told a press conference on Tuesday that he did not think the elections had been fair, they were the only ones possible, and so he accepted the outcome.

"Renamo accepts the results," he declared categorically, thus ending speculation that he intended to imitate Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and return to the bush.
Cahora to supply Zimbabwe

MAPUTO.—An agreement signed yesterday calls for the war-damaged Cahora Bassa hydro-electric dam to be refurbished with money from some of its power being sold to neighbouring Zimbabwe.

The dam, situated on the Zambezi River in western Mozambique, was a showcase project for the region when it opened in 1975.

Built by Portugal before it ended colonial rule in Mozambique that year, Cahora Bassa became a target of rightist rebels in civil war that broke out in 1977.

By 1983, Mozambique had to import power from South Africa to replace the lost capacity at Cahora Bassa. Now, the dam generates less than two percent of its 2,000 megawatt capacity.

Under the agreement signed yesterday, Norway would provide financing worth $24.5 million (about R85.75 million) to construct transmission lines to Zimbabwe. The project would allow Zimbabwe to draw 500 megawatts from Cahora Bassa.

With new stability in southern Africa after South Africa's April elections and democratic votes in Malawi and Mozambique, the Cahora Bassa project is considered a key to spurring regional development. — Sapa-AP.
Renamo walks out of assembly

MAPUTO. — Newly-elected opposition lawmakers from Mozambique's former guerrilla movement Renamo and another party walked out of the new parliament's opening session yesterday after the vote to elect the new speaker.

Speaking for Renamo, whose members are in parliament for the first time after 16 years of war against the former Frelimo government, Mr Manuel Pereira said: "This is not the parliament we hoped for."

Renamo and UD (Democratic Union) deputies to the Assembly of the Republic (parliament) left the room before the speaker elected by the Frelimo majority, Mr Eduardo Mulembwe, was formally appointed.

The opposition deputies, who had wanted a secret vote, refused to participate in the open vote to elect a speaker.

The decision whether to use a secret vote for electing the president to parliament was itself taken by open vote.

Mr Pereira objected that "Frelimo's majority seems to mean any idea of Renamo's will not succeed." He added "This shocks us."

October's first post-war elections gave Frelimo a simple majority with 129 seats. Renamo got 112 seats and nine seats went to the UD.

President Joaquim Chissano earlier ushered in a new era of Mozambican politics by formally opening the country's first multi-party parliament and calling on the 250 deputies to work together for the good of the nation.

In a conciliatory speech, Mr Chissano told the deputies: "Mutual respect is the first stage of tolerance, without which pluralism is impossible," he said.

— Sapa-Reuters
Chissano's new term of peace

MAPUTO — Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique's president since 1986, was sworn in for a new five-year term yesterday with a pledge that peace would last in the war-weary southern African country.

"This spectre of war has been removed. Peace has come to stay," he told a crowd of thousands in Maputo's Independence Square, among them his former civil war rival Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the main opposition RENAMO party.

He also made a plea for reconciliation: "This is a time for us to continue healing all our wounds and overcome distrust. We must know how to begin a new relationship, without preconceptions and without rancour. We must bury forever our hatreds and renounce vindictiveness once and for all."

At Thursday's formal opening of parliament, Chissano said the 16-year war between his ruling FRELIMO party and RENAMO was over and that now was the time for fruitful dialogue.

But soon after his conciliatory remarks, RENAMO walked out of the sitting in protest at the procedure for electing the parliamentary chairman.

Chissano won the October presidential poll with 53 percent of the 5.4 million votes cast, against Dhlakama's 34 percent.

The presidential and parliamentary elections followed a 1992 peace agreement between FRELIMO and RENAMO. FRELIMO, the formerly Marxist party in power since independence from Portugal in 1975, won an eight-seat majority in the 250-seat parliament.

Chissano stood on the podium as the national anthem was played and the national flag was raised. Later there was a 21-gun salute. The ceremony was broadcast live on national radio and television.

Portugal's Mario Soares, Botswana's Ketumile Masire, Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Saa Tome and Principe's Miguel Trovoada, Angola's Jose Eduardo dos Santos and President Mandela were among heads of state in Maputo for the ceremony.

In Thursday's parliamentary session, the FRELIMO candidate for the chairman's post, Eduardo Mulembewe, won all the votes cast. RENAMO and other opposition parties did not vote because of a dispute over procedure.

Chissano declared Mulembewe chairman but RENAMO legislator Manuel Pereira objected that the vote was invalid.

RENAMO and Democratic Union deputies then walked out of parliament and did not return for the official ceremony to swear in Mulembewe — Sapa-Reuter.
Chissano's peace plea marred by walkout

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He also read a plea for reconciliation.

"This is a time for us to continue healing all our wounds and overcome distrust. We must know how to begin a new relationship, without preconceptions and without rancour. We must bury forever our hatreds and reconcile vindictiveness once and for all," he said.

"Let us forgive the wrongs of the past."

At Thursday's formal opening of parliament, Chissano said the 16-year war between his ruling Frelimo party and the former rebel Renamo was over and now was the time for fruitful dialogue.

But soon after his conciliatory remarks, Renamo walked out, Ushe sitting in protest at the procedure for electing the parliamentary chairman.

Frelimo Transport Minister Armando Guebuza described the walkout as "regrettable."

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The inauguration ceremony was addressed by leaders from Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Bahá'í communities.

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— Sapa-Reuters
Parliament reopens — without Renamo

Maputo — Mozambique first multiparty parliament reopened yesterday without Renamo.

Deputies from Frelimo, which has 129 seats, and the marginal opposition Democratic Union, with 9 seats, took up their place in the 250-seat national assembly, with no sign of Renamo.

A meeting on Tuesday between President Joaquim Chissano and ex-guerrilla leader Anson Dhlakama apparently did nothing to resolve a 10-day crisis that has paralysed parliament.

Frelimo, entering parliament for the first time after a 10-year bush war, refused to attend until Frelimo agreed to new internal voting rules allowing for secret ballots. Renamo deputies started their boycott during the inaugural session on December 8, when they objected to the use of an open vote to elect the speaker of parliament, Frelimo candidate Eduard Mulombo.

However, the chief of Frelimo's bench, Armando Guebuza, said yesterday: "We cannot delay parliament any longer."

While Frelimo seems unprepared to make concessions to Renamo, Guebuza said "15 million Mozambicans depend on the state apparatus functioning and this needs money, which has to be approved by parliament."

— Sapa-AFP
MOZAMBIQUE - GENERAL

1995
Calm returns to Maputo

Maputo — Mozambican police said yesterday calm had returned to a Maputo suburb where a soldier and a policeman were killed in clashes between the security forces and wounded three other policemen.

They said the trouble began on Monday night when police arrested a member of the army's Second Commando Battalion on charges of kidnapping a civilian woman.

About 30 fellow commandos went to the police station in Maputo's Liberdade suburb, where the soldier was being questioned, and tried to set him free.

Police reinforcements soon arrived and a shootout ensued, leading to the death of a commando and the wounding of two policemen. Commandos returned to Liberdade on Tuesday morning and attacked the police station, wounding two more policemen.

One of the wounded policemen died in hospital. A policeman was 'abducted' in the clashes, and his whereabouts were not known.

The detained soldier has yet to be released.

It was the second incident of serious discipline among commando units of the new Mozambican Defence Force, the FADM, within a week.

On Friday, commandos in the northern port city of Nacala mutinied, demanding money and better food. They put up barricades on a road leading out of the city and started shooting at random, killing a civilian driving by in a car.

The commando battalions are part of a new 11,500-strong defence force built up in 1984 with volunteers — Sapa-Reuters
Mozambique inflation now up to 48.9%.

Maputo — Mozambique, one of the world's poorest countries, failed to beat spiralling inflation which had risen from 30 percent to 48.9 according to a new year report from the governor of the Bank of Mozambique published this week.

Adrano Malesane said inflation had risen from 30 percent in 1963 to 45.9 at the end of October in 1964.

Contrary to government expectations, the inflation rate worsened.

Former finance minister Eneas Comche said in 1963 he hoped the government would bring the annual rate of inflation down to below 18 percent by December 1964.

No official figures are yet available for November and December but they are unlikely to show a brighter picture.

During the pre-Christmas period local newspapers were full of consumer complaints about big price increases.

Reuter
Mozambican investors told of obligations to labour

Labour legislation in Mozambique established minimum wages for all workers and a 7% social security levy paid to the social security system. The latest Old Mutual employee benefits in Africa series said:

"Trade union activity and the right to strike were constitutionally recognised and employer and employee organisations existed and operated in an environment geared for collective bargaining arrangements.

Appraising employers intending to invest in Mozambique of their obligations to workers, Old Mutual's chairman GM Heek Beets said the 7% social security levy was currently fixed at a 4% contribution from employers with the balance paid by workers.

The social objective of the system is to guarantee the subsistence of workers whose labour capacities are jeopardised due to accident, illness or old age. On reaching retirement age workers qualify for a pension under the social security system, while employees who become disabled before reaching retirement are able to apply for a disability pension.

However, he said pensions were inadequate as evidenced by the stipulated minimum wage which was the equivalent of about R69 a month.

Beets recommended employers supplement this by providing additional medical and retirement cover as well as adding value to low salaries through the payment of such benefits as study assistance and interest-free loans.

He said Mozambique's health infrastructure was both poorly financed and badly equipped.

It was unable to cope with healthcare demand and private clinics had been established to deal with the overflow.

The Mozambique Labour Act stipulates that employers are responsible for all medical expenses if an employee falls ill or has an accident and the cause is directly related to his or her occupation.

Extensive maternity rights were also contained in the Act, including a provision preventing employers from firing workers during pregnancy or for a year after childbirth.

Termination provisions served to protect workers from mass dismissals and lock-outs. If the labour court found an employer to have been unilaterally dismissed without just cause, the employer would be obliged to reinstate the employee and pay compensation," Beets said.
Nigeria restores market reforms

ABUJA — Nigeria, a big oil producer hit by low prices and weak economic management, said yesterday it will be able to meet less than half its expected obligations in 1995 for servicing foreign debt.

"It is estimated that about $4.897.762m will be required to service current maturities and interest charges on external debts in 1995 fiscal year," acting finance minister Anthony Ani said when giving the breakdown of the 1995 budget on Saturday.

"Government has however decided to earmark $2bn for external debt service for the year because of budgetary constraints," he said.

He said that as at the end of October Nigeria's debt stood at $20.43bn.

Experts welcomed Nigeria's 1995 budget, which cautiously restored free market reforms after a year of political and economic turmoil, but reserved judgment on how successfully it could be implemented.
Mozambique launches
nature restoration plan

MAPUTO — After years of its national game parks being the domain of guerrillas and armed poachers instead of tourists, Mozambique is taking steps to recover its natural heritage.

Licensed safari hunters are moving back to game reserves while plans are afoot to restore national parks to tourist attractions they were before civil war began to take its toll in the mid-1970s.

Now that the peace agreement signed in 1992 has eased former enemies into elected roles in government and opposition, a prime target for rehabilitation is the central Gorongosa National Park.

Once famed for its abundant wildlife, including hippos, buffalos, lions and a herd of 14,000 buffalo, Gorongosa was the infamous wartime headquarters of the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo) guerrillas in the 1980s.

Little now remains of the wildlife population but a few antelope which are still the targets of poachers.

Timber merchants are felling trees at the edges of the park — which is protected by law but not by fences — while impoverished villagers who are looking for better land have moved in to start farming.

Plans to restore the park should get under way in February.

Mozambican national wildlife department director Bartolomeu Soto said: "The first phase is an 18-month emergency programme funded by the European Union."

Under the million-dollar plan, the park is to be reoccupied by game wardens and wildlife experts. Hunting is to be controlled and detailed studies are to be made for its long-term management.

The African Development Bank has pledged a further $10m for natural resource management in central Mozambique, including the Gorongosa and Marrume reserves.

Some of the money, Soto said, could be put to future use in repopulating the game park with stock from neighbouring countries, and reconstructing its tourist infrastructure.

With support from the World Bank's Global Environment Fund, the wildlife department has plans to link its own reserves to those in neighbouring countries.

Wildlife authorities from Mozambique and Zimbabwe are already holding talks on the probable creation of a trans-frontier wildlife park across their common border in the Chitíanamani mountains.

Recent studies funded by the World Bank show there is little potential for conflict in Chitíanamani, the only real constraint being the lack of infrastructure on the Mozambican side.

"I cannot say when the plan will go into operation — it depends on our funders as well as us, but once it does, tourists could be using it within a year," Soto said.

Another initiative in the pipeline is to revive the Maputo Elephant Reserve and open up the Futu Corridor, the ancient migratory path leading over the border to Tormbe Elephant Reserve in SA.

Wildlife officials say peace in the zone has already encouraged elephants to move back into the Maputo Reserve, where game wardens have started patrols.

As a first step to reopening the corridor, the wildlife department has asked the ministry of agriculture to put a freeze on land concessions in the area, and find somewhere else for people settled there to go.

However, Soto admits it could be a slow process requiring delicate negotiation with local communities and recently returned wartime refugees who have settled inside the reserve.

— Sapa-AFP
Maputo harbour’s Matola coal terminal is expanding

THE Matola coal terminal in Maputo would increase coal exports from 800 000 tons to 1.1-million tons this year, said Matola operator CMR Engineers and Project Managers (CMR) MD Carlos Ramos.

About R2m had been invested on expanding the terminal. A further R5m would be invested this year to upgrade capacity to 2-million tons by the end of 1996. The money would be spent on a second reclaimer and a ship loader.

The aim was to increase the capacity of the Matola terminal to between 3.5-million and 4-million tons, but to achieve this the Maputo harbour channel would have to be dredged and the railway line to Maputo from the SA border would have to be upgraded.

The harbour’s dredger, operated by the Mozambican government, was out of order. Talks were being held with Portnet with a view to enlisting its help to dredge the harbour.

Ramos said the harbour could only handle ships of 40 000 tons at the moment, and freight rates for these were extremely high. The freight charge for a 40 000-ton ship was between $15 and $17 a ton, compared with about $6.75 a ton for a 150 000-ton ship.

The harbour would need to be able to handle ships of at least 60 000 tons, but he hoped it would be able to handle 90 000-ton vessels, he said.

The railway line, which could easily handle the current volumes, would have to be rehabilitated. This would cost between $12m and $15m.

The harbour would also have to be open 24 hours a day. This was currently not the case. Ramos said CMR would install a diesel generator to ensure that operations would not be interrupted by breaks in power supply.

CMR was training people working at Maputo harbour to ensure there would be skilled staff available to handle the expected volumes of traffic.

Maputo would probably get most of its coal from SA, with a portion coming from Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

The Matola terminal would attempt to replicate the operations and efficiencies of Richards Bay Coal Terminal, but would not really be able to compete with it because of economies of scale, Ramos said.

It would be more likely to draw business from Durban, as it would have an advantage in terms of distance. It was about 900km to Durban from the Witbank coalfields, but only 400km to Maputo. This meant it would cost between $3 and $5 a ton more to rail coal to Durban.

However, Maputo harbour suffered an image problem because of unreliable service during the civil war.

Previously the system had not been commercially orientated.
Minister opposes bid to resettle farmers

PRETORIA — Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk criticised the Transvaal and Free State agricultural unions for their efforts to resettle SA farmers in Mozambique.

Van Niekerk warned at the Agricon conference that farmers seeking opportunities “between landmines” could face a lack of markets as well as a lack of safety following the war in that country. He said they could be accused of creating a new form of colonialism.

He warned against creating “pockets of white affluence” in neighboring states. “SA farmers could be drawn into a politically flavoured situation in Mozambique,” he said.

Van Niekerk warned that it would have been acceptable if the farmers moved there for the purposes of exchanging knowledge and skills, but the invitation and initiative for this should have come from Mozambique, not the agricultural unions.

Van Niekerk said additional produce from Mozambique, marketed in SA, would deprive farmers who remained in SA.

The Free State and Transvaal agricultural unions, led by Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen this week returned from a visit to Mozambique’s President Joaquim Chissano to pave the way for farmers to settle there.

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo, meanwhile, was accused of a lack of interest in the reconstruction and development programme (RDP) after failing to attend the conference.

Agricultural policymakers said the RDP office had missed a good opportunity to spell out its needs to the agricultural sector and to boost the RDP. Sources said Naidoo had been approached months ago to open the conference, but had not been invited.

In his opening address, Vufumed MD Kobsen Louwisch said the RDP would fail if its main function was the static redistribution of wealth.

The RDP had to be visionary in its approach and government should not fall into a trap of “overdemocratising and oversimplifying” structures.

Van Niekerk said a vibrant agricultural sector was one of the cornerstones of the RDP because it created employment and training opportunities, provided food and encouraged technological development.

“l am of the opinion that the agricultural sector has gone a long way to realise the objective of economic empowerment for the people of SA,”

Agriculture was well equipped with an infrastructure capacity to realise RDP objectives, Van Niekerk said.

He said commercial agriculture had been largely free of government support, “save for one or two commodities.”
Police to Food, Trouble Sports

Chilling asks for

crossman's

SPOOKY PANTS

BY CHARLES SCHULTZ
Farmers to go on great trek

CAPE TOWN — SA and Mozambique yesterday agreed in principle on a Freedom Front initiative for about 1000 Afrikaner farmers to embark on a “new great trek” to farm in Mozambique. These farmers will also assist agricultural development in the war-torn country.

Involved in the agreement were President Nelson Mandela and Mozambican President Joachim Chissano, and the presidents of the Free State and Transvaal agricultural unions, Piet Gouws and Dries Brummer.

Sapa reports that the two agricultural unions proposed to “earmark a number of experienced SA farmers to become involved in a joint effort to strengthen the agricultural sector and related industries in Mozambique.”

Chissano said his government was proud of the agricultural co-operation initiative, which would benefit not only the two countries but the whole region.

He complimented Brummer and Freedom Front MP Pieter Mulder for brokering the deal.

No regrets over apology to Mozambique

CAPE TOWN — Speaker Freone Ginwala’s apology to Mozambique was not made on behalf of the ANC, but on behalf of the democratically elected representatives of the people of SA, leader of the National Assembly Trevor Manuel said yesterday.

He said the NP’s call for Ginwala’s resignation was “amount of unnecessary embarrassment.”

Manuel said Ginwala’s apology for the “terrible crimes” committed by fellow South Africans against Mozambique was supported by the majority of South Africans inside and outside Parliament.

“Her apology is based on a fundamental morality, a concept alien to the NP,” Manuel said.

The NP was incapable of understanding the wrong which it had perpetrated against the people of SA and the region.

“The NP remains a collection of selfish people lacking the faculties of remorse so necessary for reconciliation.”

Manuel said the National Assembly would stand by the Speaker. — Sapa.
White farmers may aid Moz
SA plan to rid Mozambique of landmines

Columns of South African armoured vehicles will roll into Mozambique within weeks if an ambitious R60-million plan to remove up to a million landmines from agricultural land gets government backing.

The plan, which has won the endorsement of South African foreign affairs officials and the tacit support of the defence force, is expected to be presented formally to the Mozambican government by the end of the month.

It is aimed at helping kick-start the crippled Mozambican economy by freeing tens of thousands of hectares of arable land of anti-personnel mines which last year claimed 650 lives and maimed thousands of people.

South Africa stands to gain if a resettlement of farmers near border areas beset by food shortages and near total unemployment helps to stem the increasingly expensive tide of economic refugees flooding across the eastern frontier. The benefits will come from both millions saved and goodwill.

"The key to the plan is a home-grown technique that transforms the Casspir, once a symbol of South Africa's security forces, into a weapon of peace.

Pretoria-based Mechern has proved that the 10-ton armoured personnel carrier can be turned into an effective anti-personnel mine-clearing machine simply by sheathing its huge wheels with steel bands and driving it in a meticulous cross-cross pattern over the minefields.

The mines, containing about 250g of explosive and often small enough to fit in the palm of a man's hand, have enough power to tear off a foot or a leg.

However, they make little impression on a Casspir — apart from an occasional shredded tyre.

While conventional systems using rollers to detonate the mines can leave about 10 percent of the killer devices behind, the Casspir boasts a total clean-up.

They can clear a minefield in hours instead of the weeks it takes mine clearers working by hand, cutting costs to about a tenth of competitors.

In 1991, five men and two vehicles cleared 12,000 anti-personnel mines from 60 minefields around the Mozambican power pylons between Maputo and Komatiport in just six weeks.

"We left the veld already ploughed and as flat as a tennis court," says Sakkie van Zyl, a former Special Forces operator who is completing a Mechern survey of hundreds of unmarked minefields.

There are an estimated two million mines in Mozambique.

In Maputo province alone, Mr van Zyl has mapped 60 major fields containing about 249,000 mines barring access to about 25,000ha of prime farmland.

Mechern head, Dr Vernon Joynt, said the plan, using about 50 Casspirs, would require the government to sanction the use of defence force equipment.

"If we can get the right logistical support in place by the beginning of the dry season in May, we can remove up to half of the mines within a year," he said.

David Laubscher, Department of Foreign Affairs director for southern Africa, described the plan as "the bargain of the decade".

"The problem with resettling Mozambique is landmines. Any economic recovery will have to be agriculturally based.

"If you can start resettling the people on land they can work. The need to cross the border will disappear," he said.

It is known that SANDF planners want to ensure that any equipment and manpower used for mine-clearing in Mozambique is available for deployment inside South Africa to assist in securing the local government elections in November.

Defence Minister Joe Modise said he was considering a request from Mozambique for South African Navy assistance to patrol its waters to prevent foreign plundering of fish stocks, the SABC reported yesterday.

By PETER DO IONNO
World directs its frown on Nigeria

Nigeria seems lost in a political labyrinth, its military leadership unable or unwilling to find the way to a long-promised democracy, despite growing international pressure.

The latest pressure comes from South Africa, with President Mandela sending Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Abuja as his emissary.

Mandela’s office confirmed that Tutu would meet Nigeria’s military strongman, General Sani Abacha, this week in an effort to secure the release of Moshood Abiola, the man widely held to have won presidential elections in 1993, which were subsequently annulled by the army. Abiola, a businessman, was jailed a year later on charges of treason when he declared himself the rightful president.

Tutu will also be concerned about the house arrest of General Uwaegbulam Obasanjo, another pro-democracy voice punished by the regime recently.

Importantly, Mandela’s concern is not alone. In a virtually unprecedented move, black American civil rights leaders have turned their fury on a black African leader: Randall Robinson, executive director of TransAfrica, the organization which spearheaded a US anti-apartheid lobby, has launched a campaign to restore democracy in Nigeria.

And late last month it was the intervention of former US president Jimmy Carter that secured the release from jail of Obasanjo, who was accused by Abacha of plotting a coup.

But whether the increasing glare of negative publicity moves the militarists at Nigeria’s helm remains to be seen.

The constitutional conference is still the only political initiative to have come from Abacha’s government. Established in 1995, it had the mandate to pave the way for a handover to civilian rule. The conference has proposed January next year as the target date for a return to democracy, but has yet to submit its report to the government. The March deadline for that report came and went, now May is the new date.

These delays mean that the conference is now many months behind schedule. It is also riven by internal bickering between mostly government-appointed delegates, and many Nigerians have become disillusioned with its work, dismissing it as a silly charade.

Moreover, when it does finally make its report, it remains in the hands of the present military government to implement a democracy timetable.

A recent government promise that the military regime would not “perpetuate itself in power” has done little to convince the politically harried citizenry.

Nigeria has been in this crisis since the 1983 elections were annulled. Apart from the ongoing defections and harassment of pro-democracy voices, among them Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka who fled the country, the independent press in Nigeria has been silenced.

Newspapers critical of the government’s repressive policies remain shut down. Talks initiated with opposition leaders and pro-democracy groups have yielded no results.

The dropping of five of Nigeria’s hosts to the world youth soccer championship, was yet another incident underscores the instability in Nigeria’s most populous nation.

But, perhaps because civilian rule has proved little better, Nigerians do not consider themselves victims of military regimes, which, since independence in 1960, have held sway for a total of about 25 years through a cycle of coups and counter-coups.

“The past civilian regimes have not fared better. We’ve all been inept at the command of the man’s needs because of personal interests,” said Ali Sheriff, a former minister in the Second Republic, between 1979 and 1983.

The strikes and riots which erupted out of the political stalemate last year have hit the economy hard. Western nations, increasingly critical, have frozen badly needed new investments, and some firms—among them being American Express—have withdrawn.

There has been large-scale retrenchment in many firms and job opportunities are non-existent, even for university graduates.

In this environment, living conditions have become unbearable hard for most Nigerians. Basic necessities—shelter, food, and transport—are as scarce as gold. And where they are on offer, their prices put them beyond reach of most citizens.

“We now operate in an environment of survival of the fittest. If we find ourselves alive the following day, fine. If not, too bad,” said Bashir Adegbun, a small-time trader and father of five.

Many fear there will be no change until the military impasse is resolved. “Abacha has to restore democracy immediately,” said Bala Usman, a radical critic at a university.

“Unless all those arrested and detained are freed and the government reaches an accord with Abiola, there can never be democracy in this country,” said Bade Onimode, another academic, in a recent public lecture.

Both these men probably speak the minds of many. But the possibility of a resolution appears remote to Nigerians who view Abacha as increasingly intransigent in the face of demands that he step down.

Still, hard as life is now, many Nigerians recall the even greater hardships of last year during the two months of crippling oil strikes and riots. There seems little motivation for the public to rise up again “What against the military” said one young man in Lagos.

So while the constitutional conference might be viewed by some with cynicism, there is also a hopelessness in the absence of other alternatives: waiting for the conference report, and more importantly, the government’s reaction to that report, still seems the best option right now unless international donors can make a difference.

Meanwhile, a local musician has released a new album, which is proving popular. "Where is My Nigeria?" is its title. It could be the country’s theme song.
UN troops in Angola as peacekeepers

LUANDA: Portuguese troops flew to Angola yesterday as part of the deployment of more than 7,000 UN peacekeepers to monitor the implementation of a pact ending 20 years of civil war. UN special envoy Mr Alioune Blondin Beye said the Portuguese would reinforce logistical teams already in the country, including 679 British military engineers.

The deployment comes after Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi held UN-brokered talks on Saturday, aimed at reducing mistrust after their two sides signed an accord last year.

All logistical units should be deployed by the end of May, the Portuguese responsible for communications, Rumanians to operate hospitals and Argentines to provide naval support, as well as the British engineers.

Infantry troops from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Uruguay and Zimbabwe would be deployed from June, Mr Beye said.

Mr Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi, after their meeting in Lusaka on Saturday, declared they were ready to work together for peace.

"The meeting was a big success and the result was beyond my expectations," Mr Dos Santos said.

Dr Savimbi said he had been moved by the cordial atmosphere and was "going back a very comfortable man" — Sapa-AFP

Action plan for Moz approved

MAPUTO: Mozambique's government won a fresh political victory yesterday when the nation's first multi-party parliament approved its five-year plan of action with no major amendments.

Frelimo holds 129 of the 250 seats in parliament, the ex-guerrilla Mozambican National Resistance has 112, and the Democratic Union nine seats.

Prime Minister Mr Pascoal Mocumbi said yesterday the five-year plan pointed the direction for government, society and the business community to follow. Its key policy themes are to reconstruct and extend Mozambique's social and economic infrastructure, to continue economic liberalisation and reinforce its forces of law and order.

The Mozambican parliament will approve the government's economic and social programme and budget for 1995 before closing this week. — Sapa-AFP
Action plan for Mozambique approved

MAPUTO, Mozambique's government won a fresh political victory yesterday when the nation's first multi-party parliament approved its five-year plan of action with no major amendments. Preliminary holds 129 of the 250 seats in parliament, the ex-guerrilla Mozambican National Resistance has 112, and the Democratic Union, 16.

Prime Minister Mr. Pascoal Mocumbi said yesterday the five-year plan pointed the direction for government, society and the business community to follow. Its key policy themes are to reconstruct and extend Mozambique's social and economic infrastructures, to continue economic liberalisation and reinforce the country's law and order.

The Mozambican parliament will approve the government's economic and social programme and budget for 1995 before closing this week. — Sapa-APP
WINDEHOK — Mozambique was on track to privatise most of its large industrial companies within the next two years, World Bank acting resident representative in Mozambique Simon Bell said yesterday.

He told a press conference that Mozambique's 'main privatisation agency' — which was supported by the World Bank — had so far privatised 14 of the 55 'large' companies in its portfolio.

Foreigners — mainly from Portugal and SA — were the main investors, but the government had kept 20% of each company to sell off to Mozambicans at a later stage.

Two other privatisation agencies focused on selling smaller state assets, which had more Mozambican investors.

Bell said the sale of Mozambique's telecommunication and electricity utilities was still a long way off.

However, there were plans to privatise its two state banks by the end of next year.

‘Mozambique has one of the most successful privatisation programmes on the continent,’ he said.

The programme began in 1991 when a privatisation act was drafted. Privatisation of its services — including its national air carrier and port terminal facilities — were also on the cards.

Bell said Mozambique's economic fundamentals were still 'extraordinarily weak'. It had $58 per capita income, against SA's $3,000; had had to resettle about 8 million people by the end of last year; had a $1bn economy and was saddled with a debt of $5bn to $6bn.
Frelimo ups rent — to R6 a month

By RACHEL WATERHOUSE

MOZAMBIQUE'S government broke a long-standing social pact this week when it announced rent rises of between 10% and 200% per cent on state-owned housing, effective from June 1.

Yet so far there's been no public outcry from tenants, who will still pay little more for housing a month than it costs to buy a kilogram of rice.

The increase will take monthly rent for a typical two-bedroom flat in the city centre from around 5,000 meticais (R2,50) up to 12,000 meticais (R6).

A loaf of bread costs 1,000 (50c) meticais in the capital, the same as a short bus ride through town.

Nonetheless, as Housing Minister Roberto White implied when he announced the increases, the new rents represent a radical change in the philosophy of state property management.

When Frelimo came to power at independence from Portuguese colonial rule in 1975, it nationalised all state-owned accommodation, and "abandoned" property.

The effects of a cheap rent policy on the quality of national housing stock has been disastrous.

With no income to speak of from tenants, the state housing body has been unable to maintain its property, much of which is now an eyesore, if not a health hazard.

Nine children died in Maputo this year when the wall of a state-owned housing block collapsed on top of them.

The rent increases announced this week are just one step in a complete overhaul of state housing policy.

State tenants are now being offered their houses for sale, and pre-independence owners can claim back their property — if they can prove they never really abandoned it.

However, the concession hasn't satisfied the hundreds of Portuguese who fled to South Africa or Portugal in 1975.

Mr White this week further announced plans to set up a National Housing Institute and Housing Development Fund before the end of the year to build low-cost housing in urban areas.

These houses will be sold to private owners.

In the long term, the government hopes to sell off most of its rented housing stock and encourage private home-ownership.
Inter-state co-operation that made a model repatriation

When the last 341 Mozambican refugees returned home from Malawi earlier this month, it brought to an end a two-year repatriation effort by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). It had cost $209-million ($736-million) to return nearly 1.7-million people who fled the war that devastated Mozambique for 16 years.

This was the largest assisted repatriation effort by the UNHCR in the world, with the next largest being the assisted return of 350,000 Cambodians from Thailand.

According to UNHCR regional representative Nicolas Bwakira, one of the fundamental reasons why the operation was a success — and was finished one year ahead of schedule — was the role played by the key political actors in Mozambique, and the positive and swift reaction of the international community to the crisis.

Bwakira said the SADC countries played a particularly important role, including ensuring the success of the peace agreement between President and Renamo, and the peaceful conclusion of the elections in October when Renamo threatened to walk out.

“The created a climate of peace and trust which enabled the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate in Mozambique, which increased confidence among Mozambicans in refugee camps to return.”

Bwakira points out that although the UNHCR assisted all the refugees, most people walked across the borders. The agency provided transport for 533,000 refugees.

But thousands were transported in trains, trucks and buses from the six host countries — Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, and more than a million from Malawi.

The UNHCR helped all the more than 1.7-million refugees.

Although organised repatriation is now over, there are still nearly 90,000 Mozambican in South Africa.

According to UNHCR spokesman Yusuf Hassan, these people would still be regarded as refugees for another year and the organisation would try and encourage them to return home in that time.

Although the UNHCR would not provide transport, the refugees would still be eligible for assistance on arrival.

If they did not return before June, when a cessation agreement was likely to be signed, they would lose their automatic refugee status and would have to show individually that they were fleeing persecution or be regarded as illegal aliens.

A large proportion of the assistance from the UN agency was to the communities people returned to, in the form of providing or repairing infrastructure such as ensuring communities had access to water, schools, clinics, or providing them with agricultural tools and seeds, and with food until crops were produced.

This benefited not just the returnees, but also the nearly 1.7-million people who were displaced within the country, as well as those who did not feel compelled to leave their homes.

Bwakira emphasised the importance of co-ordinating the various actors in the repatriation process — more than 170 NGOs in Mozambique. But it is also important to involve the national institutions in the process, giving them ownership of the reconstruction which ensured the skills were retained in the country.

If this was done quickly, in conjunction with a concerted international effort, it increased the trust of the returnees in the process, encouraging them to return home.

“Outside assistance cannot achieve much unless there is trust from those involved, and there is a concerted effort towards peace and reconciliation,” Bwakira said.

The speedy delivery of seeds, for example, meant people were reliant on food handouts for a shorter time, avoiding a sense of dependency developing.

Another important factor was the control of firearms, which were a major obstacle to peace and security.

Bwakira also made a special appeal to countries to avoid using military hardware that named people, such as landmines, which he described as “one of the most dangerous obstacles to the reconstruction of Mozambique.”

A similar problem would also face the next large repatriation effort in the region — Angola.

Millions of unmapped mines lie in wait for innocent victims in both countries, long after peace accords have been accepted.

Visitors to Mozambique see the devastating effects of these mines everywhere, as people hop along on single bones that serve as crutches.

But the other danger, particularly for a country reliant on agriculture, is that it severely restricts the amount of arable land and also turns potentially productive people into dependants, Bwakira said.
Mozambique peace boosts crop planting; fewer imports needed

MAPUTO, — Impoverished Mozambique will need to import 446,000 tons of cereals in the year to March 1996, 25 percent less than the previous year, says a UN report.

The report said the overall national food supply situation in the 1995/96 marketing year was much better than in recent years.

The report follows a mission to Mozambique — one of the world's poorest countries — by teams from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Mozambique's food aid needs have gone down sharply since a peace agreement in October 1992 ended a 16-year war between the government and guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo), now the country's main opposition party.

Food needs for the 1993/94 international aid programme, when the effects of the war were still very much in evidence, were put at more than 1.3 million tons.

As stability has returned so has crop planting. The UN mission found the area planted with food crops had increased 13 percent in 1994 and cotton and other cash crops by 10 percent.

"This sizeable increase in the area planted was due to extensive repatriation and resettlement of refugees, as well as the increased numbers of demobilised soldiers and internally displaced persons returning to their areas of origin," the report said.

One of the big problems now was the need to move surplus crops from parts of the country which had good rains to others suffering drought, before they were sold to neighbouring states.

The WFP's chief representative in Mozambique, Philip Clarke, said surplus maize was already being sold in Malawi by farmers in the fertile Angonia area in Mozambique's northwestern Tete province.

But some parts of Tete were hit by drought and had seen none of the surplus.

The UN report warned donors they had to move fast if they wanted to stop this trend — Reuter
The heart is where the heart is. This is the message of the poem. It is the center of our emotions and feelings. The heart is a symbol of love and affection. It is also the organ that pumps blood throughout our bodies. Without the heart, we would not be able to live. The heart is a vital part of our body. It is also a symbol of life and vitality. The heart is a symbol of strength and resilience. It is also a symbol of hope and healing. The heart is a symbol of the human spirit. It is also a symbol of the soul.
Mozambique, the world's poorest country, sits like a powder keg on South Africa's shoulder, its survival far from certain.

Were it not for an all-encompassing weariness with war, hostilities would more than likely break out again, plunging the people into even greater depths of misery, starvation and poverty.

Among middle-class Mozambicans, the consensus seems to be that their country is irredeemably lost. Development is so painstakingly slow, many feel, that even in 30 years the country will not be as developed as any of her neighbours.

Most look to South Africa and Zimbabwe for medical care, shopping and education and yet, perhaps surprisingly, very few consider leaving. They find their neighbours cold and cynical, too "British" and too arrogant. One might think that in a country all but destroyed by decades of war and where virtually nothing works, middle-class people would seek out the relative comforts and efficiencies of their neighbours.

Frelimo officially governs the country - where and when it can. However, there are areas, such as Dambu district in Manica Province, where Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama is in firm control. Renamo's official line is that a return to war is inconceivable now that Mozambique has its first democratically elected government. But this assurance can be accompanied at times by a thanky veiled warning that Renamo remains well-organised and trained.

In reality, Mozambique is run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). And even they can do little to resuscitate the country. UNOMOZ, the UN peacekeeping force deployed last year to monitor the elections and to collect all weapons of war held by both factions, did a less than perfect job. Some estimate there are about 1 million AK-47s still unaccounted for in Mozambique - and several million undetonated anti-personnel and anti-tank mines.

Renamo's Chief of Internal Administration in Manica Province, Almino Muchanga (40), says his party is not confronting Frelimo, but that nurses, teachers and administrators in Renamo-controlled areas are dissatisfied that they are not being integrated into the civil service.

Nevertheless, Frelimo officials are not welcome in Dambu. When a police contingent arrived there recently, they were immediately sent back to Chimoio, the capital of Manica. Muchanga declined to admit that this had happened, but did say that the police contingent had been carrying AK-47s and that the Frelimo officials in Dambu had taken exception to government police carrying weapons of war in "their" zone.

Despite Renamo forming "government" within the government, there are signs that the Renamo hierarchy is not in full command of its grassroots leadership. Banditry, as much as police, is the motivation behind the chaos.

Because of the absence of real government and administration in Mozambique, information and statistics are scant. Ask a businessman in Chimoio what the state of inflation is and he will shrug his shoulders. "Maybe they know in Mupito," he'll say.

Nevertheless, local people complain that prices of many commodities seem to double every few months and that the meticais (the local currency) is now worthless. People exchange currency openly, despite the law, and shops, restaurants and bars will accept Zimbabwe dollars, South African rand or US dollars with alacrity.

With unemployment standing at a possible 80% and a minimum wage of about R50 a month, poverty and squaller is pervasive. Investment has been negligible and virtually all development is donor-funded.

Despite the desperation, the almost complete absence of infrastructure and the overwhelming poverty, the Mozambican government has made it difficult for foreigners to invest in the country. But now in a bid to lure investors, Finance and Planning Minister Tomas Salomando says the government has cut red tape to make it more attractive and easy for foreigners to invest.

Foreigners wanting to invest in Mozambique must have a Mozambican partner with a minimum stake of between 10 and 15% - and again, the bureaucracy involved can tie the investor in knots for months and even years.

Even tourists have had to cut a swathe through bureaucratic red tape - and pay for the privilege - before entering Mozambique. Simply crossing borders can take hours as apathetic customs officials demand foreign currency for every piece of paper they have to process. One faces problems with officials of all sorts, perhaps because they are paid insufficiently, but Mozambicans complain incessantly about corruption within their own police force.
SIMON BARRER IN WASHINGTON

a potential banana
economic lifeline of
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A potential economic lifeline of IS PANDA BEAN AN

BARTERER IN WASHINGTON

a potential banana

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ongoing mismanagement and environmental damage have ruined resources

Water shortage

A river barely runs through it

Mozambique's rivers all originate elsewhere — and by the time they get to the drought-ravaged country, they are almost useless

Justin Arembepe reports

Mozambican goodwill towards South Africa is drying up — with a growing clamour that South Africa is responsible for that country's increasingly parched crops and stunning rivers.

Not even a flying visit to Maputo last week by South Africa's water guru, Karel Deim, is expected to assuage Mozambique's increasingly militant agriculturists, who are convinced that South Africa is overusing a vital, limited resource.

The growing outrage in southern Mozambique stems from the fact that Mozambique has been forced to rely on its rivers for water because of the severely under-developed water infrastructure.

Some of these rivers, however, originate within the country and are heavily utilised by neighbouring countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland before entering Mozambique. After three years without any significant rains, Mozambique's rivers are drying up.

Mozambican government authorities contend that a number of South African dams on the Limpopo and Incomati rivers in Mムmungaba and the increased agricultural use of the Olifants and Crocodile rivers have aggravated this situation to the point where Mozambique has once more wanted to address this growing dissatisfaction when he flew to Maputo last week for an urgent economic meeting with his counterpart there.

"Yes, South Africa is very aware that the Mozambicans are unhappy about the quantity of water reaching them. In fact, the Mozambicans were so unhappy that they decided to sign a proposed Memorandum of Understanding — they called it a feel-good document," said Peter van Niekerk, a chief engineer for project planning and a delegation member.

"Instead, they immediately signed a draft document setting for the creation of a joint water commission between the two countries. This is much more than we had expected or hoped for and, as a result, a formal treaty between South Africa and Mozambique is scheduled to be signed in Pretoria next month," said van Niekerk.

"But what we're actually doing is laying the framework for 10 to 15 years from now. This agreement will be the keystone for similar treaties throughout the sub-continent."

Although no formal complaint has yet been lodged with African authorities, it is also hoped that Anival's visit will quash groundlings for a World Court lawsuit against South Africa for allegedly violating international water conventions.

"We're informed the South Africans that we don't agree with unilateral decisions to build dams on inter-natal rivers such as the Vaal River," explains Mozambican National Water Board Director Lusia Liba.

"We deplore the fact that they are diverting water from neighbouring countries, and if we don't like their decisions we can do what southern Mozambique's Regional Director for Water Affairs, Ismael Cantara, 'We can't just go and knock the dams down.'""Although the threatened legal action is seen as nothing more than a political lever to impress the South Africans with Mozambique's seriousness, the threat itself could seriously harm South Africa's image both in the region and internationally. Organisations for African Unity (OAU) and South Africa has repeatedly tried to forge water exchange agreements with countries such as Tanzania and Zambias which have abundant excess water.""Water exchange schemes with each country is just talk at the moment," he said.

"Water supplies to Mozambique should increase, though, when programmes such as the re-creation of estuarine trees along water courses in South Africa begin to have an effect. These plants can consume up to 20 percent of river-borne water."

Lebacschneg also added that the entire body of South African water legislation is presently being reviewed, including formation of riparian rights to water that flows through their property.

"This process allows for public participation and any suggestions will definitely not be ignored," he said.

*Submissions can be sent to Dr Kader Asmal, Minister of Water and Forestry Affairs, Private Bag X0052, Cape Town 8000 — African Eye News*
Great expectations?

A significant natural gas deposit was discovered in north-central Mozambique in 1961. But efforts to exploit it have proved elusive. The most recent failure, over price, was a proposed deal with Sasol to absorb the gas into its expanding industrial gas pipeline.

Now the Industrial Development Corp is negotiating to bring the gas to Palabora to convert waste magnetite owned by Palamin (more than 200 Mt) into iron carbide or iron. One technical problem would be the high titanium content of the magnetite. It would also be capital-intensive — a cost of around R1.5bn has been suggested.

US oil and gas company Enron has been vigorously promoting the development of the Pandro deposit. It has signed a “memorandum of understanding” with the Mozambican government. And the World Bank is keeping a close eye on prospects.

Enron claims there is enough gas to operate the magnetite process for 30 years at a rate of 30m gigajoules a year. The idea is beautiful but transport costs pose problems. The shortest route would be 500 km but Mozambique might prefer to route the pipeline through Maputo to give access to potential domestic consumers. Then the line would be more than 850 km.

Proven reserves at Pandro stand at 1.7 trillion cubic feet of gas — enough to run a 600 MW generator for 25 years. Mozambique’s national hydrocarbon company, Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), claimed recently that total reserves could reach some 8 trillion cubic feet, though 30% seems to be optimistic.

Price is still the main issue. A press report claims Sasol was willing to pay R12/gigajoule — not enough for ENH.

All of Pandro’s gas would be of only marginal importance to SA — where coal reserves dwarf other fossil fuel resources — but could be of great value to poverty-stricken Mozambique.
IMF agrees to fund Mozambique afresh

From SAPA-AFP

Maputo — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had agreed to fresh funding for impoverished Mozambique, Finance Minister Tornas Salamao said yesterday. Salamao, who returned from talks with the IMF in Washington at the weekend, said the Mozambican government would negotiate funding for a new three-year economic reform programme to begin in February next year.

An IMF mission is due in Mozambique early next month, a week before the government will present its budget proposal to parliament for approval.

Mozambique began its first IMF-backed structural adjustment programme to liberalise a centrally state-planned economy in 1987.

But the country still depends on foreign credit to finance more than 60 percent of its budget.

It has received more than $1 billion in foreign aid and credit this year, including balance-of-payment support.

Salamao said the talks with the IMF were tough and that while the negotiations agreed Mozambique was fulfilling some of its conditions, it complained the country fell short in some areas, such as its failure to reduce inflation.

The IMF has further criticised the government for agreeing to a 37.5 percent wage hike last month which has brought the minimum monthly salaries up to 218 153 meticais ($21).

Criticism

Yet the IMF's tough stance has provoked increasing criticism from some of Mozambique's bilateral donors, while effects of the reforms, such as rising prices, are causing social unrest at home.

Hundreds of youths took to the streets of Maputo earlier this month, protesting the rising cost of living, while trade unions have threatened a general strike for the past six months.

Economists here say that while the cost of living for ordinary people has soared since the launch of the reforms, overall national production levels are no higher than they were before.
Mbeki set for security talks with Mozambique leaders

Political Staff and Reuters
DEPUTY President Thabo Mbeki and deputy foreign minister Aziz Pahad flew to Maputo today for security talks with Mozambique leaders.

"The meeting was at the request of Mozambique to discuss the security situation there," government spokesman Ricky Naidoo said.

A foreign affairs spokesman said the meeting followed discussions between President Nelson Mandela and his Mozambican counterpart, Joaquim Chissano, when the two heads of state were in New York last week for the United Nations anniversary celebration.

Mr Naidoo was unable to say whether the talks would focus on the internal security situation in Mozambique or that on the border between South Africa and Mozambique.

It was not clear whether the South Africans would meet Mr Chissano but they will meet Mozambican Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi.

Mr Mbeki's office, commenting on the discussions, said the deputy president had to cancel all of today's engagements to enable him to make the trip.

A spokesman for President Nelson Mandela said Mr Mbeki had been sent to "attend to urgent matters of state".

However, he said, this should not be interpreted as meaning the situation was grave.

It was expected the deputy president would make a statement on his return tonight.
US firm to develop natural gas field in Mozambique

By John Fleming

Maputo — Mozambican government officials involved in the negotiations on the development of the Pande natural gas field indicate the government has reached an agreement with Enron, the Houston, Texas-based corporation.

Enron officials in Maputo and in Houston refused to comment on the deal, but Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano said in New York last week that Enron would soon sign a contract with the government to develop the field.

The Mozambican Minister of Mineral Resources, John Kachamba, said the agreement with Enron was reached last week.

The estimated $500 million investment in developing the field in Mozambique's southern Inhambane province, and building the pipeline to South Africa, is enormously important to the continued development of Mozambique. But it could also have a major impact on the long-term energy strategy for South Africa.

For Mozambique, the Pande project could generate annual revenues of $150 to $200 million in hard currency, according to Kachamba, roughly doubling the current exports of the Mozambican state.

Officials say both the government — which will go into the project with Enron as a joint partner — and Enron, must each acquire financing for the deal. The World Bank, which funded an initial $23 million study of the project, has indicated its willingness to help finance Mozambique's share of the investment.

While financing is not a huge concern, there are worries about finding a customer for the gas.

Many involved in the project are pinning their hopes on Palabora Mining Company as a major buyer. Palabora has studied using the gas to produce iron carbonate from the tons of waste produced in mining copper.

American Embassy officials in Maputo point out that the sale to Palabora and other mining outfits could benefit Mozambique by creating exports that could flow back through the port of Maputo.

"Mozambique would be making money coming and going," said American ambassador Dennis Jett.

"If Palabora buys the gas, they could create a product from their waste material, reduce most of the environmental damage at the mine site, and be able to export the iron carbonate back through Maputo — a shorter distance than to the South African ports.

Others, including Kachamba, express their fear about finding buyers. According to the agreement, Enron has six months to line up some buyers in South Africa. I worry that they might not find them," Kachamba said.

Enron has sold Eskom, Sasol and a number of mining companies but so far all have said that Enron is asking too much for the gas. Eskom officials say that it currently costs some R8.80 to produce a kilowatt of energy from coal and would cost more than twice that to produce a kilowatt from natural gas.

Eskom spokesman Peter Adams said his company had spoken to Enron about the Pande project but that Eskom, "has lots of coal now and there is no strong likelihood of using natural gas in the short term."

— Independent Foreign Service
Enron ready to wrap up deal on Pande gas fields

Mungo Noggero

US EXPLORATION company Enron is poised to sign an agreement with the Mozambique government to develop the Pande gas fields, in what could be the first major investment in the war-ravaged country in years.

Mozambique's Coal and Hydrocarbons national director, Nhieriwa Maseliha, said yesterday the two sides would sign an agreement for the $500m deal in two or three weeks. Enron would have six months to find customers for the gas.

An Enron spokesman in Houston said the company was pleased with the progress of the negotiations and was confident of a "short time frame" to wrap up the agreement.

But officials in Mozambique have voiced fears that Enron will not be able to find a major anchor client. Potential clients, such as Eskom, say Enron's rates are too expensive. Eskom had considered using it for power generation.

Other exploration companies, including Switzerland's Asco Brown Boveri, have expressed interest in developing the fields, while Petroliet has expressed interest in distributing it.

Enron has been talking to the Mozambique government for more than a year.
Apartheid

Wildlife, slaughtered for war...
Mozambique’s jam-packed jails notch up a heavy toll

Mozambican police are also allowed, by law, to operate their own prisons. These are centres where they keep suspects awaiting trial or during investigations. Those arrested can stay under such conditions for up to six months before they are brought before a court.

In Gaia, southern Mozambique, prisoners went on strike early this year in protest against such delays. Police say the system is so congested that delays are inevitable.

"Everyone is looking for an alternative for survival, since the economic rehabilitation programme is squeezing everyone," say police.

At Cabeça de Velho in Manica, prisoners have already requested the church and civil rights groups to pressure the government to improve their conditions. They made the appeal after recovering some food from a local church group.

While the society slowly recovers from nearly two decades of civil war, the Mozambican government has yet to realise that its prison system of confining people to re-education camps or under inhumane conditions contributed, though partly, to that war.

The former rebel movement, Renamo, emerged soon after the Rhodesian forces attacked the Sable re-education camp in Gorongosa in 1979, freeing thousands of people.

Among them was André Matsangase, the man who immediately became the leader of Renamo. This party wreaked havoc for 16 years until the country held its multiparty elections last year.

Other camps, highly resented by the people, were Ruania and Chamante, in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, and Unango in Niassa Province.

Several political leaders and dissidents, including Uma Simango, Joao Simao and Lazaro Kavundnde, are known to have disappeared at the camps.

Chamante, Ruania and Unango housed suspects and convicted criminals. But in the majority of cases, people were sentenced to re-education for petty nuisances and minor offences like drunkenness, loitering, vagrancy, homelessness and prostitution. – Star Foreign Service-AIA
Mozambique gets set to join the 'Club'

Political Staff

AUCKLAND — Mozambique has been given the green light to join the Commonwealth.

A former Portuguese colony, Mozambique is surrounded by former British colonies which have much-needed access to Commonwealth funds and development expertise.

Commonwealth Heads of Government chairman Jim Bolger announced yesterday "with some enthusiasm and pleasure" that government heads had agreed to "warmly welcome Mozambique to the Club and the membership of the Commonwealth as a unique and special case."

He said that because it was ringed by Commonwealth member states, Mozambique had for some years wanted to be part of the association of states.

Southern African nations had backed Mozambique's application.
Mozambique in the Club

IAIN CHRISTIE

MAPUTO Britain no longer has an ambassador in Mozambique, but that's a sign of friendship rather than hostility.

Richard Eds, ambassador since November 1992, was due to leave for London last Friday at the end of his assignment with a title different from the one he had when he arrived.

High commissioner

"I haven't quite got used to it, but strictly speaking you should address me as high commissioner," he said following Mozambique's admission to the Commonwealth last Monday.

He declined to say who his successor would be and it was not clear when the new high commissioner would take up his post.

The former Portuguese colony - the 53rd member of the family of nations - is the only member not to have had colonial ties with Britain.

"It's traditional that heads of diplomatic missions in Commonwealth countries are called high commissioner rather than ambassador. The term is historical and I think it implies closer and friendlier relations between Commonwealth countries than those between foreign countries," Eds said.

"For Mozambique to have joined an association of nations which Britain was responsible for founding is a very exciting moment in the closing week of my mission in Mozambique," said Eds.

"We are very delighted to welcome them as the 53rd member of the Commonwealth and we look forward with other Commonwealth countries to working with Mozambique in this new framework."

He arrived shortly before the November 1992 Rome peace accords which ended a 17-year civil war between the Maputo government and Renamo that devastated one of the world's poorest countries.

The move to peace culminated in the country's first multi-party elections a year ago, won by President Joaquim Chissano's Frelimo party, which had ditched Marxist ideology after ruling since independence from Portugal in 1975.

A British military advisory team has been training Mozambican troops from both sides for a unified army for several years.

Asked why Mozambique had wanted to join the Commonwealth, Eds (52), said he had discussed this with Chissano and Mozambican cabinet ministers.

Co-operation

"The point that was made repeatedly was that Mozambique was the only country in this part of Africa that was not already a member of the Commonwealth, so clearly there is a dimension of improving regional co-operation," Eds said.

"I think it will help to promote Mozambique's interest in further integration in the region and through joining in what one can call the Commonwealth culture of the region.

"The Commonwealth countries of the region have similar ways of doing things, in the educational field, the judicial, legal, administrative and the military field. So this will bring Mozambique into line with its neighbours," Eds said.

Mozambique is bordered by Commonwealth states on all its land frontiers - Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland. It has sought Commonwealth membership several times over the years.

Eds said that at the international level Mozambique would be able to take part in regular meetings of heads of government and ministers.

"Although the Commonwealth is not an economic organisation there are Commonwealth programmes of co-operation and scholarships only available to people from Commonwealth countries.

"Mozambique is joining a family of nations with a common approach to issues, such as democracy and human rights," he said.

Portugal as the former colonial power jealously guards its interests in Mozambique, but Eds disagreed with predictions that English would replace Portuguese as the official language.

"I don't think that there are any immediate implications for the Portuguese language here. On Commonwealth occasions, one of the ground rules is that English is used, but I don't think this is a great problem. A lot of English is spoken here."

Sport is one area Mozambique can expect benefits from Commonwealth membership: participation in the Commonwealth Games, for example. "But it doesn't mean Mozambique will have to start playing cricket," Eds added with a chuckle.
The Industrial Development Corp and US energy giant Enron are locked in negotiations which could see gas from Mozambique’s Pande gas fields used for major industrial development at Phalaborwa in the Northern Province.

Enron, which recently signed an agreement with Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos de Mozambique, has been given six months by the Mozambican government to find an SA customer for its proposed US$700m gas field development.

The target now is Palabora Mining’s 200 Mt stockpile of discarded magnetite (iron oxide) tailings. The aim is to reduce and beneficite the magnetite to iron carbide for use in steel-making.

Houston-based Enron spokesman Carol Hensley says the $13bn corporation will be able to deliver gas to SA by 1998 after a customer approves the completion of a 900 km pipeline from Pande. “But,” she adds, “we are not totally dependent on the iron carbide plant and are also talking to other prospective SA customers.”

Though Iscor is also interested in the development; it is looking at other processes such as coal-fuelled iron reduction. Magnetite contains about 60%-70% iron and carbide 85%-95%.

Palabora Mining MD Frank Fenwick says indications are that Pande gas could be too expensive as a reduction fuel. “We are

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keeping our options open and talking to others apart from the IDC.”

An Industrial Development Corp spokesman says it will be decided next week whether the corporation will co-fund a proposal R15m feasibility study, which should indicate by April whether the carbide plant could become an economically acceptable and technologically proven option.

The spokesman says the corporation has had initial discussions with Palabora Mining, Anglo American Gencor, Sasol and Iscor to find joint venture partners for the development of the stockpile.

He says coal-based technologies exist for the reduction of magnetite to iron units and that these are also being looked at. He adds that Foskor’s phosphate rock plant at Phalaborwa has a magnetite stockpile of about 35 Mt, which could be beneficiated.

“The stockpile could allow a 30-year life for the proposed 4 Mt/year carbide plant,” he says.

Iscor mining consulting services GM Ernst Venter confirms Iscor’s interest in the proposed beneficiation of Palabora’s magnetite stockpile but says the gas-fuelled reduction process is one of several options being considered by Iscor.

“A steel-making plant is also an option — once a decision is taken to develop the stockpile — but costly pelletisation would be required,” says Venter.

Adds Venter: “One should remember that priority would be accorded to adding value to the magnetite — to the benefit of the owners, co-developers and SA’s economy not to developing the Pande gas field. But, if Pande gas could eventually become the fuel source, the two projects would fit together.”
costly Pando gas
SA into buying
US 100s set to buy

SWIMMER BARBER in Washington
IMF praises Mozambique for good economic progress

BY IAIN CHRISTIE

Maputo — The head of an IMF mission to Mozambique said this week that the country was making good economic progress.

The whole system has evolved very well and the economy has shown results, Anupam Basu, the deputy director of the IMF's Africa department, told a news conference.

Basu downplayed the importance of meeting fixed benchmarks.

"Benchmarks are not policies. They are something to look at to see if anything needs to be done to the policy," he said.

Mozambique has planned to end this year with inflation of no more than 4.4 percent, but the target was revised to 3.4 percent in September.

Basu said this too could not be met and estimated that by the end of the year, annual inflation would be between 4 and 5 percent.

This compared with 8.3 percent in September last year to September this year, and 70 percent in the same period 12 months earlier.

He estimated economic growth this year at between 3 and 4 percent, and up to 7 percent in what he termed productive sectors of the economy.

Sector by sector, estimates put growth at 5.4 percent in agriculture, 5 percent in industries and fisheries, 7 percent in construction and 12.7 percent in transport and communications.

Official statistics will be published in the new year.

Basu expressed appreciation at the stabilisation of the exchange rate of the Mozambican currency. After a sharp drop earlier this year it has over the past few weeks held at about 1000 meticais to the dollar.

"If fiscal and monetary policies are prudent, the exchange rate will not slip," he said.

The ruling Frelimo party is selling significant chunks of the economy and wooing foreign capitalists.

The sell-off ranges from a ship repair yard to copra and tea plantations, factories, breweries, hotels and sea freight agents. The government's Technical Unit for Enterprise Restructuring said in a recent policy document.

Under advice from the IMF, state-owned commercial banks will also be privatised. The national airline may also go under the auctioneer's hammer, but that move is still being discussed. — Reuters
Plea to slow the land rush in Mozambique

BY ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

Any decisions on development in the ecologically sensitive southern region of Mozambique should be delayed until proper land use plans are in place, says Dr John Lodger, director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, which is the only non-government agency presently operating in Mozambique.

Lodger was commenting on the scramble for Mozambique, particularly by big business developers. These ventures include:

- The Mosa Florestal project, a joint venture between Sappi, the Mozambique government and two Mozambique companies, to develop afforestation on 30,000 ha adjoining the Maputo Elephant reserve. The project has been authorised, subject to an environmental impact assessment.

- The EIA, which was commissioned by Sappi, was released last week by Natal University's Institute of Natural Resources (INR). It found that should the project go ahead on the proposed area of 30,000 ha, there would be a significant impact on water resources, and a high negative impact on biodiversity.

- US businessman James Blanchard's Mozambique Enterprises project proposes the creation of a world-class tourist destination, through the development of the Inhaca-Santa Maria Peninsula and the three-fold extension of the Maputo Elephant Reserve. In the process Inhaca would be linked to Ponto do Ouro, by means of a railway line along the coast, the idea being to run an antique steam engine mass transit system.

- A proposal by a South African consortium of businessmen for the development of Ponto do Ouro as a tourist mecca and town, complete with a five-star hotel, golf course, casino, boat launching facilities, casino park, shopping centre and residential development.

In addition, South Africans are flocking to the region in increasing numbers. In the process numerous illegal beach huts and shacks have been erected and unscrupulous fishermen are plundering marine resources, especially reef fish, Lodger says.

"The Mozambique government is hamstrung because there is no land use plan for the area. This is a serious hindrance and it's now every man for himself with every interest group doing its own thing," Lodger said.

The EWT has had a presence in the southern region since 1982, where it runs a joint project with Mozambique's National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife (DNFFB).

The region has been identified as having high conservation and eco-tourism potential, which could be enhanced through the development of a transfrontier park linking the Maputo Elephant Reserve and three parks in KwaZulu-Natal-Ndumo, Tembe Elephant Reserve and the Kosi Bay Coastal Reserve.

The transfrontier park proposal has been backed by a World Bank-funded study. The most recent for the DNFFB was released in January by the Southern African office of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). It supported Lodger's point of view. "The entire region extending from the Maputo River to the coast between Ponto do Ouro to Machangulo Peninsula has been subject to haphazard and uncontrolled development—the area has literally been carved up," the IUCN report said. "Remarkably, this development has, and is, occurring without any prior land use planning."

The report warned that the development was robbing local communities of natural resource use rights while future options for appropriate land uses were continually being foreclosed.

"The situation requires bold and urgent action to prevent incompatible land uses becoming a permanent feature of the landscape."

Asked to comment on the Sappi project, group environmental manager John Schottler said the company was investigating whether downsizing the Mosa Florestal project would still be viable. It had also commissioned the INR to look into factors which could mitigate against negative impacts its EIA had identified.

"Big development plans could have negative effect on a sensitive region"

He pointed out that the EIA process was not yet complete. Public comment on the EIA was now being invited and had to be submitted by January 5. Following this, public meetings would be held in Maputo.

The final decision would rest with Mozambique's Council of Ministers, he said. The project represented a R178-million investment, and would create 1,200 jobs and R50 million per annum revenue after eight years.

"In the end, the Mozambique government has to decide if the negative impacts outweigh the obvious socio-economic benefits," Schottler said.

"Weed land use today should consider how the natural resources of a region can be used in a way that brings tangible and sustainable development. We believe a diversity of land uses in southern Mozambique offers the best development option. We also believe that forestry provides the opportunity to kick start other development options in the area, such as eco-tourism and conservation, by providing capital infrastructure that such forms of land use normally have great difficulty in funding."

Lodger said the EWT was participating very closely in the INR EIA process.

"We are worried about closing options of land use by going with timber, which would lock up land for an extended period," he said.
Hot air over gas find

Beneath the rolling grasslands of southern Mozambique lies a huge reserve of natural gas, which if piped to neighbouring South Africa could earn Mozambique, the poorest country in the world, a row R500-million a year in hard currency.

And last month, an aggressive American gas company, Enron Corporation of Houston, Texas, triumphed over several competitors and signed an agreement with the Mozambique government to develop the field.

Enron plans to construct a pipeline about 1,000km long into the South African market, provided it can find a customer. One problem, during the bidding process, Enron may have alienated many of the South African energy companies that were the most promising customers. Some of those companies had wanted a stake in the pipeline itself.

"If they don't have a buyer for the gas, then Enron loses its rights," said Mr Eric Daffern, a World Bank official. "They can't sit on it forever." Indeed, Enron must find a customer by June or seek an extension from the Mozambique government.

American pressure

The joint venture between Enron and Mozambique's state-owned energy company took diplomacy to put together. Company executives and US officials said it nearly fell apart several times in the last three months as Mozambican energy officials complained that they were under political pressure from the United States to accept what they saw as a bad deal.

In the end, the accord came only after Enron agreed to give the state energy company a bigger share of the venture, Mozambique officials said. Along the way, US diplomats in Maputo and several US senators mounted a lobbying campaign to persuade Mozambique to sign with Enron.

"Elements of the embassy did a bit of lobbying for the company, which I find a bit strange, because this is a commercial agreement," said Mr John Kachamula, Mozambique's minister of energy resources, who negotiated the deal. He contended that he was "told that other aid to Mozambique might be in jeopardy if this agreement was not signed."

Mozambique relies almost entirely on foreign aid for its budget and receives more than R140-million a year in US aid. US officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, denied that a specific deal to cut aid was made.

"It was a little more assertive than that," said one Clinton administration official. The Mozambican officials were told Congress would be less likely to approve the same level of aid for the country if it rejected a major capital project, the official said.

Enron's success in navigating the political waters of southern Africa is set against the background of its problems in India, where its project to build a R10.5-billion power plant in Maharashtra state was nearly derailed last summer after national and politicians said that Enron had padded costs and bribed officials to get the contract.

Angered South African companies

But the hard-nosed American company is scarcely free from Mozambique, for it stepped on the toes of South African companies to obtain the right to build the pipeline. One potential buyer, Eskom, has said the price for the gas was too high. Another possible customer, Sasol, is still stinging from having lost its bid to build the pipeline before Enron emerged on the scene in late 1994.

Without sales contracts, Enron will never be able to attract the R2100-million in financing to build the pipeline. World Bank officials say Enron executives say they have high hopes of finding a buyer among South Africa's mining and steel companies, which could use the gas for mining operations.

Joseph W Sutton, the president of Enron Development, a subsidiary, said the talks were still in a preliminary stage. "We are hopeful," he said. "This is very early in the development stages of this project."

The pipeline project is Enron's first foray into Africa. The company is the largest natural gas supplier in the world with 44,000 miles of pipelines in South America and the United States, and in recent years it has aggressively tried to break into new markets in the Third World.

Gulf Oil Company discovered the Pande field in 1961 while drilling an exploratory well in Inhambane province. The field is 18 kilometres by 21 kilometres and has reserves of almost a trillion cubic metres. The Mozambican energy company Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos has exclusive rights to develop it.

But 20 years of civil war in Mozambique hindered development. That changed when a peace treaty was signed in 1992. President Joaquim Chissano has been seeking to increase exports, which total only about R1850-million a year, mostly raw nuts and cashew nuts. The Enron deal is one such effort.

Big money spinner

Although the terms of the joint venture are confidential, officials with knowledge of the details say Enron controls a majority of shares. After Enron pays taxes, however, the government will end up with about half the revenues -- an expected R490 to R700-million a year.

Last August, however, a tentative deal between Enron and the government began to unravel, a Clinton administration official and US diplomats in Maputo tried to salvage it, and several US senators and Anthony Lake, the president's national security adviser, wrote letters to the Mozambican government.

The World Bank then stepped in, concluding that Mozambicans were accepting too much risk. The deal was renegotiated and in November the Mozambican officials then produced a minor political firestorm, complaining about US diplomats role in the talks.

In the end, however, the deal will hinge not on US diplomacy but on whether a market can be found in South Africa, a land with few gas reserves. Sutton said.

If there is no sign of getting a market, Enron will be in trouble," Kachamula said.
Land grabs spark eco war as locals fight for Matutuine

Maputo - A pristine beauty spot in southern Mozambique has become an unlikely battleground for a power struggle between a South African company and an American billionaire.

Although the battle - dividing timber merchants and tourism developers, politicians and ecologists - rages over their heads, local Mozambican villagers could fire the deciding shot.

In 1997 the Mozambican government invited South African timber giant, Sappi Forests, to invest in the southern Matutuine district, bordering South Africa to the south and the Indian Ocean to the east.

Civil war between the Mozambican Liberation Front (Frelimo) government and the Mozambican National Resistance Movement (Renamo) kept the project on hold until after a peace agreement in 1992.

Now Sappi is keen to forge ahead with plans to plant about 32,000 hectares of Matutuine with eucalyptus forest in a joint venture with the government and government-linked companies Sappi officials in Maputo said all the timber produced would be exported raw to South Africa.

The company promotes the project as a "tremendous opportunity for Sappi and for Mozambique, able to create hundreds of jobs and earn multihundred-dollar profits."

The Mozambican cabinet has approved the project in 1994, on the condition that it would not have a seriously destructive impact on the environment.

Meanwhile, post-war Matutuine has suddenly focused the interest of scientists, ecologists, wildlife conservationists and tour operators.

Scientists have declared the rolling grasslands, swamp forests and lakes of Matutuine as unique in southern Africa, and deserving international protection for its rare ecology and rich biodiversity.

Conservationists working for the World Bank have said it has the potential to become a pioneering "trans-frontier conservation area" linking Tembo Elephant Reserve in South Africa to Maputo Elephant Reserve in Matutuine.

Under pressure from environmentalists, Sappi funded an environmental impact assessment study by the Natural Resources Institute of Natal University.

The report said that while the Sappi project could present a "tremendous economic opportunity", water-guzzling eucalyptus trees could destroy the delicate balance of Matutuine's ecology, ruining its beauty and destroying its wildlife.

Louisiana businessman James Blanchard, meanwhile, has woven conservation concerns into a R2.8-billion tourism development proposal for 200,000ha of Matutuine.

Blanchard wants to put a fence around the Maputo Elephant Reserve, the Futu Corridor linking it to Tembe reserve in South Africa, and much of Matutuine's scenic coast.

He would create a vast private park with five-star hotels and private lodges, combining a game reserve with a seaside resort.

Its key condition is "Sappi out". Both sides are pulling top political strings. While Sappi's project is a joint venture with the state, Blanchard was one of Renamo's key American backers during Mozambique's civil war.

Some ecologists are in favour of Blanchard's proposal, arguing that profits from Sappi's eucalyptus plantations could be outweighed by a long-term ecotourism project for Matutuine.

The Mozambican government has yet to make a final choice.

Meanwhile, its land commission argues that one vital element has been left out of the equation - the villagers of Matutuine.

At present all land in Mozambique belongs to the state, but a new national land policy approved by the cabinet in September aims for the first time to protect the collective land rights of local communities.

If the new policy passes into law, both contestants for Matutuine may have to come cap in hand to the government, but to Matutuine villagers - Sapa-AFP.
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Mozambique has little to show for economic reform

By JOSÉ DUXE

Maputo — Eight years after adopting the International Monetary Fund's structural adjustment programme, the Mozambican government apparently has little to show for it.

Originally the government thought the programme would increase employment, but instead more than 35,000 workers have lost their jobs.

The government collects tax only in some areas of the economy. Dependence on external donors has increased and industrial and agricultural production has stagnated. The official inflation rate is 21.5 percent.

The Mozambican Trade Union Federation's secretary-general, Severo Nhaca, said the programme was deepening social inequality among the people — two-thirds of Mozambicans live in absolute poverty.

The Programa de Reabilitação Econômica, as it is called, was imposed by the IMF in an attempt to remove macro-economic imbalances.

Nhaca said the monthly minimum wage in 1987 was $131, but now that was worth only US$15.

With this amount, he said, Mozambicans could buy only 29 percent of the basic needs of a family of four. This did not include the cost of transport, education, energy, health and clothing.

Nhaca suggested tax collection be extended to the informal sector and that the government impose price control measures on basic commodities. — Independent Foreign Service/ AIA

(218) 07 (BR) 11/11/96
SA timber giant Sappi and a US ecotourism entrepreneur are locked in battle over the development of 30 000 ha of nature-rich land in Mozambique’s Maputo province.

In 1988 Sappi and the Pretoria government founded Mosa Florestal, a joint company which earmarked the area for commercial plantations.

Last year, however, the World Conservation Union and the World Wide Fund for Nature recognised the Maputoland Centre as one of 84 botanical sites of global conservation significance as part of its Centres of Plant Diversity project.

According to Pretoria botany professor Braam van Wyk, it is the most remarkable area in Mozambique and its principal nature asset. In a letter last October, Van Wyk, supported by the SA Association of Botanists, wrote to Mozambique president Joaquim Chissano to plead against Mosa Florestal’s plans “Massive commercial afforestation in the core area of the Maputoland Centre would be a destructive activity of international concern. In addition to the destruction of grassland and associated habitats, afforestation is expected to have serious long-term effects on the hydrology of the region, thus destroying a significant part of one of the most remarkable natural ecosystems in the world.”

Also vying for Chissano’s support is US entrepreneur James Blanchard, president of Blanchard Mozambique Enterprises, whose company has embarked on a US$800m ecotourism project to develop Maputoland, revitalize the Maputo Elephant reserve, and link both areas to the development of the Santa Maria-Machangula peninsula.

Blanchard’s proposed development includes mass transit by steam train (including services by the Orient Express and Blue Train), a floating hotel casino, access by hovercraft to the peninsula, exclusive home lots and a wildlife reserve on the peninsula.

“It is a plan that could rapidly transform Mozambique from a sleeping giant into the envy of the world’s investment and tourism industry,” Blanchard wrote to Chissano in a letter accompanying his glossy 200-page proposal. Blanchard’s 214 000 ha development proposal is the result of studies conducted by Bechtel International and architects Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo, commissioned by SA landscape architects Gouws Uys & White.

Impact study

The Sappi plantation proposal remains the stumbling block. Despite a proposal in an impact study conducted by Natal University’s Institute of Natural Resources to exclude plantations from certain areas, which would reduce Sappi’s proposed plantation to 21 000 ha, Blanchard is adamant that unless Sappi’s plan is scrapped he will not pursue his development.

According to the institute’s study, reducing the proposed forestry area would accommodate concerns about the biological impact and loss of land important to local resource use. The study adds, however, that “the loss of habitat and impact on biodiversity would remain a significant issue, but the nature and the extent of the loss and impact would be reduced.”

“Although a final decision has not been taken,” says Van Wyk, “the arrogance of the developers is reflected by the fact that they have started bush-clearing.”

This is refuted by Sappi’s environmental manager John Scotcher, who says they were experimental plots established with the full knowledge of the Mozambican authorities and the permission of the local people.

The institute handed its impact study to the Mozambican authorities in December and have asked for comment before the end of the week.

Scotcher, a biologist formerly from the Natal Parks Board, says his company has adopted an open and transparent process and “we will reconsider our plans once we have received comment on our impact study and looked at Blanchard’s.”

Scotcher says he and Sappi are also concerned about the region’s biodiversity. “It would be wonderful to keep the area undisturbed but in the real world you can’t have it all. If we withdraw we will take away an opportunity for the local people to uplift themselves from poverty.”

He believes there is no reason why the forestry and ecotourism cannot be developed side by side.
The effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the global economy have been unprecedented. In a matter of months, the world has experienced a profound and lasting economic downturn.

The impact has been felt across industries, with many businesses facing significant challenges. The travel industry, for example, has suffered greatly as travel restrictions and lockdowns have limited international movement.

However, some sectors have been able to adapt and thrive. The e-commerce industry, for instance, has seen a surge in demand as people have turned to online shopping to avoid physical contact.

The pandemic has also accelerated the adoption of digital technologies and remote working practices. These changes are likely to have long-lasting effects on the way we work and live.

As the world continues to navigate this new normal, there is a pressing need for governments, businesses, and individuals to adapt and innovate in order to emerge stronger and more resilient.

In summary, the coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on the global economy. The challenge now is to learn from this experience and build a more resilient and sustainable future.
Row over IMF plans for Mozambique

Eddie Koch and Carlos Cardoso

The International Confederation of Trade Unions (ICFTU), which held a workshop in Maputo in November last year, urged the IMF to realise that the country's informal sector had mushroomed as a byproduct of the tough austerity programme.

"The government must begin to accord proper attention to the needs of workers in this sector, with a view to integrating them into the formal economy," says the ICFTU report.

The IMF has broken out over International Monetary Fund (IMF) plans to impose tight curbs on wage hikes and the few social security benefits that still exist in Mozambique.

The country has one of the poorest economies in the world and one of the lowest annual incomes per head for its 15-million people, $90 to $100 (about R315 to R360).

The row began when the IMF started negotiating a new agreement with the Mozambican government in September last year. The Mozambican government had just agreed to increase the minimum wage of $14 (about R50) a month by 38.6%.

The IMF responded by pointing out the post-election government had not met all its budget-cutting targets and issued a hard-line statement about the need to tighten up the fund's basic controls for third-world economies. These include cuts in state expenses, curbs on inflation and monetary circulation, financial reform and further privatisation.

Officials from the IMF have since softened their stance after a number of Mozambique's donor countries - which usually back the organisation's medicine for ailing economies - wrote a letter saying the Fretilin-led government, which won the election last year, was actually doing well in terms of economic reform and that the fund should relax its hard line.

However, IMF officials have indicated they will not relax monetary constraints and availability of investment capital until the government slashes the country's inflation levels, currently running at around 40%, down to 10%.

The fund has also been criticised for ignoring the informal sector in Mozambique. It says this accounts for 30% of the country's GDP, while senior government sources insist that it is as high as 60% and operates as the most important cushion against starvation, rampant crime and redistribution of resources.

Yet average wages for children on the dambanengues (black market) range from 30 000 to 75 000 meticais (R10 to R25) a month, plus one meal - much less than the already abysmal R50 minimum in the formal sector.
Mozambican mega-project hangs in the balance

By ANITA ALLEN

As it currently stands, therefore, it must be considered as a concept rather than a detailed project proposal. It says, and concludes that for that reason, the EIA itself was preliminary and should have to be followed by other EIAs on the specific impacts of components of the multimillion-dollar development.

Mozambique is in a unique position of having vast pristine and uninhabited wildernesses. Therefore, it has the opportunity to develop them from scratch and get land-use issues right the first time.

The proposal falls in the middle of an identified biodiversity centre of international importance. In addition, the sea off Mozambique is perhaps of even greater global significance. It was off this sea that a humpback whale caught a large female calf and on August 11 1991.

The search to establish whether this extremely rare fish occurs off the African coast continues.

The EIA acknowledges that the scale of the development will significantly modify pristine environments, but sees that as the inevitable cost, and the scale in relation to the total area available as "acceptable from a conservation point of view." However, it was most especially concerned about the social impact of the development on local inhabitants.

"Although the spirit and intention of the plan to create a partnership with local communities is sound, the mechanisms to achieve those objectives are weak," the EIA says.

The result may be that the project will create significant economic growth but at the expense of local people and environments.

Last month, the EIA on Sappi's proposal for afforestation on 11,000ha in southern Mozambique found that there would be unacceptable environmental impacts.

Public hearings are currently taking place in Maputo, after which Sappi will submit its final proposal.

The Sappi proposal falls within the borders of the same area where BME is seeking exclusive concessions. It has said that if the Sappi proposal gets the go-ahead it will withdraw from Mozambique.

EYESORE Slash-and-burn subsistence farming needs to be replaced by ecotourism

PHOTOGRAPHS ANITA ALLEN
Caught between giant companies

By Ruth Bungu

Mozambican peasants have to decide who will use their land

E UJAS BLYEYA is chief of the Zindeni district, south of Mozambique’s capital Maputo.

Blyeya and his people are caught between two giant companies who want their land for their business.

On the one hand is a South African forestry company, Sappi, which wants to expand its gum forests on the rich and fertile area and on the other an American industrialist called James Blanchard.

He owns Blanchard Mozambique Enterprise (BME) and wants to turn the area into a spectacular holiday resort.

Mozambican law requires that investors who want land concessions in the country must obtain the permission of the inhabitants who are the traditional land owners.

Blyeya does not understand the implications of what both companies are proposing.

He is not even aware of how desperate the two investors are likely to get in their attempts to gain his approval in the next few weeks.

All he knows is that there is a possibility of jobs being created for his people.

“I don’t understand properly what is happening,” he said, panicking through his expensive formal proposal by BME which has come to be known as Blanchard’s black bible.

“I heard rumours that some company will be planting trees in this area. Today I am told that another company wants to build hotels.”

“Both companies say they will create jobs. But I am wanting to hear from government what is really happening,” said Blyeya, who has worked in South Africa as a farmer, a domestic worker and a labourer.

Unaware of scramble

Blyeya and his people may be unaware of the scramble for their land.

The government has to put in a Land Use Plan and laws to protect the environment.

It also has to legislate for the protection of people living in the areas earmarked for development by the Land Tenure Act.

Since the government has to start from scratch to reconstrukt the country after almost two decades of civil war, everything is painfully slow.

According to government adviser and environmental expert Mr Mbo Chuma, although there is a new Land Policy in place, government is still working on legislation to establish the framework of the land tenure policies.

“If any investor wants a concession, he has to negotiate with local people who are the traditional holders of the land.”

This, he said, in the stricter sense, is the government which owns the land, does not give it to the right party in the land but the consent of the communities.

“All environmental impact assessment of the area should be done,” said Chuma.

The emotional environmental impact assessment will be commissioned by the World Bank.

Chief Elias Blyeya said his people are being wooed two corporate giants.

The government advocates the creation of three trans-frontier eco-plants and has set aside an amount of $7 million (about $25 million) for this project.

One park would be created by taking the 70,000ha Maputo Elephant Reserve to Timbe Game Reserve in Kwazulu-Natal.

Core area

This would be the core conservation area which, along with the entire coastal zone from Ponte do Ouro to the tip of the Machangulo Peninsula, have been demarcated as areas suitable for eco-tourism.

BME wants an area that is breathtakingly beautiful.

An area of unspoiled beaches, dunes, forests, lakes and open grasslands which are sparsely populated by both humans and animals.

But they have to contend with Sappi which has already planted forests on part of the area.

Both investors argue that their projects are exactly what this poverty stricken area needs. Like the rest of the country, this area has been ravaged by the civil war.

Sappi says it will create 1,200 jobs for the villagers who are basically surviving.

The Americans have a fantastic plan to invest at least $300 million (almost $2 billion) from a $750 million fund, of which 12,000 jobs initially and ultimately more than 20,000 in the next 10 years, according to BME’s project manager Mr John Perrot.

He argues that apart from boosting eco-tourism, the plan makes provision for the locals to own preferred shares in the enterprise.

This could improve their condition to a considerable extent.

The government which desperately needs investment, is being pressured to choose between the two investors.

The big question is whether it should be the trees, the birds and the animals.

Although the majority in the cabinet is said to favor eco-tourism, a few influential individuals of the Ministry of Environment are said to favor the BME project.

There are also political interests.

Sappi has a long standing relationship with the Frontline authorities while Blanchard is a known right wing supporter who would create what Perrot refers to as “battalions”.

He means those who “come over the border in their 4x4s, pulling a high tech boat and everything they need and who only buy bananas from the road side vendors.”

Besides, it has held a meeting with the Mozambique authorities, the invitation of President Ismael Chanwano to help with the development of the area east of Maputo known as the Santa Muna Machangulo Peninsula.

What BME wants is for the government to expel Sappi from the area because it believes it will completely destroy the rare grasses and trees that can only be found in this area.

Although Perrot is feeling pressure from investors to show results of more than the $1 million (about R5.3 million) he has already spent, the law must take its course.

Plan to create tourist bliss

By Ruth Bungu

WHAT is the Blanchard Mozambique Enterprise Plan (BME)?

The BME project is seen by overseas investors as a way of bringing Mozambique back into the international tourist fold with a spectacular splash.

It is also viewed as a high risk venture because Blanchard is laying out the initial funding without any guarantee that he can attract investors into the project.

The plan, which will bring in at least U$500 million ($3 billion) and create 12,000 jobs, includes the building of two hotels, a dock and yacht marina, a floating casino, a golf course with villas and 200 exclusive holiday homes in the Inhaca area.

Some 5,000 people on the peninsula, who rely on fishing and subsistence farming, will be removed to a 500ha site across the Moqueba bay.

Blanchard’s project manager, Mr John Perrot, says the people will be prevailed to see that a move will be worthwhile.

The peninsula development includes an equestrian centre and an international tennis centre and an entertainment centre on the highest point to take advantage of the view.

An antiquated steam train will carry tourists along the top of the highest dunes in the Ponte do Ouro area west of Maputo, so they can see the sea on the one side and the game reserve on the other.

So far BME, run by John Perrot, two overseas partners and South African consultants Guss, Uys and White, has spent over US$1 million ($3.6 million) on a three month feasibility study.

It found that the plan would not be viable if BME developed the peninsula on its own.

As a result BME is asking for concessions to develop the whole area south of Maputo to Ponte do Ouro and the Maputo Elephant Reserve.

It is looking for a 99 year lease over 16,000 ha of the 21,000ha peninsula and 400ha of Inhaca Island.

In addition BME wants a 50-year inclusive administration and management contract for the Maputo Elephant Reserve which must be extended and developed.

A preliminary environmental impact assessment on the peninsula and Inhaca Island has been done and handed to the government of Mozambique which is giving it serious consideration.

But a decision has not been made yet as the government has some reservations.
Maputo rejects trees project

BY ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

Sappi's forestry project in southern Mozambique has been turned down by that country's council of ministers.

Mozambique's Minister of Environment Affairs Dr. Bernado Ferrez said yesterday that the concession for the project had been cancelled on the basis of the ecological damage it would cause and the negative impact on the area's biodiversity.

Sappi spokesmen said they were distressed by the news, which had not been officially conveyed to the company.

"Until we have seen the official announcement, we are unable to comment," a spokesman said.

Sappi and two Mozambican partners, Socmo and Societ, formed a company which was granted a concession subject to an environmental impact assessment for afforestation on 31,000ha of land adjoining the Maputo Elephant Reserve.

The project represented a R178-million investment and would have created up to 1,200 jobs and R80-million a year in revenue after eight years.

Ferrez added that a tourism proposal costing R2.8-billion by US businessman James Blanchard's Blanchard Mozambique Enterprises was under scrutiny.
The project under consideration could be linked to the operation and maintenance of the existing power plant, with a potential for expansion in the future. The current government is committed to developing new power plants, and this project would complement those efforts. The government is also interested in exploring renewable energy sources, and this project could provide a significant contribution to the country's energy needs.

The project is expected to create jobs and stimulate the local economy. The government is committed to ensuring that local contractors and suppliers are given opportunities to participate in the project. This will not only benefit the local community but also help to build capacity within the country.

In conclusion, the project under consideration is a viable option that aligns with the government's energy strategy and could bring significant benefits to the country. The government is open to further discussions and is willing to work with interested parties to finalize the details of the project.
Sappi baffled by reports of shelved project

SAPPI was baffled by reports suggesting its planned forestry project in Mozambique, worth about R200m, had been scrapped, chairman Eugene van As said yesterday.

Responding to reports that Mozambique Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi had said the plan was cancelled, Van As said Sappi had tried but failed to contact government officials to clarify the situation.

He declined to say what action Sappi could take if the project had been dumped. But he said the R150m-a-year group would “not take kindly” to the project being scrapped without good reason. “As far as we’re concerned the project is a good one — it’s been welcomed by the local community.

“If there is not a good reason why it has been halted, we’ll look at it in the context of that.”

The company already has a written undertaking from the Mozambican government — the main partner in the Mosa Florestal project — that the scheme will go ahead, subject to an environmental report which has said it should be scaled back. Sappi is due to make its final presentation to the Mozambican government on February 30.

But Reuter reported on Friday that Mocumbi said on radio the project was off. Socimo — a local company involved in the scheme — told a newspaper the cancellation was “a disaster”.

The project has raised environmental concerns, and an alternative ecotourism plan for the area has been tabled by US entrepreneur James Blanchard

Van As said it would be “helpful” if Sappi could contact government officials this week to clarify matters.

The company had already spent roughly R1m on studies for the project.
Mozambique government slammed over cancellation of timber project

Maputo—The Mozambican company Socimo criticised the country's government at the weekend for the cancellation of a project to establish a 32,000ha eucalyptus plantation in the south of the country.

"It is a disaster. The decision was premature and incorrect," Socimo's managing director, Francisco Carveta, was quoted as saying. Socimo was one of two local companies involved in a consortium with Sappi and the Mozambique government, which planned to export timber from the Mosa Florestal project to South Africa.

Prime Minister Pascual Mocumbi said last week that the project had been cancelled after being criticised by environmentalists, who said the trees, native to Australia, would disrupt the area's natural water balance. — Reuter
Amended Act will restrict Zulu king

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Controversial government amendments to the Ingonyama Trust Act will forbid the Zulu monarch from infringing on any land rights of interests within the territory of the old KwaZulu.

This emerged yesterday when Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom tabled the Ingonyama Trust Amendment Bill.

It was the first time a national minister had amended a statute of one of the provinces.

The original Act, approved by the KwaZulu government in early 1994 and re-enacted by the KwaZulu-Natal legislature last month, is currently before the Constitutional Court after a dispute between minority parties and the Inkatha Freedom Party over whether it is constitutional.

The amendment Bill, which KwaZulu-Natal insiders predicted would be interpreted as the theft of Zulu land, also provided for a mechanism that transferred the functions that were performed by the old KwaZulu department to the department succeeding it in terms of the constitution.

Because land matters are not on the schedule of provincial powers, this means the national land affairs department will take over those functions.

The Bill would also enable national land programmes to apply to the land governed by the Ingonyama Trust after consultation with the Zulu king.

The king, in terms of the Bill, may within the constraints of the law, deal with the land according to tribal law.

The explanatory memorandum attached to the Bill says that the land covered by the original Act includes urban townships, government buildings, commercial and industrial sites, roads, dams and parks.

Financial institutions are refusing to grant loans and bonds to people in these areas because the land is registered to the trust.

"The result is that housing and industrial and commercial development are being stifled in the area of the former KwaZulu," Hanekom said.

No SA input on Swaziland govt

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — SA would not "dictate" what form of government should exist in Swaziland because it was the sovereign right of the kingdom's people to decide what they wanted, Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said yesterday.

He indicated SA would not press the country's administration to concede to the demands of the trade union-led democracy movement, which recently saw industry brought to a standstill in a five-day national strike.

Asked if SA was intending to support protesters in favour of changes to the absolute monarchy in the country, Nzo said the issue had been discussed by President Nelson Mandela when Swaziland's King Mswati paid a state visit to SA last year.

The king had given the assurance that the issue was being discussed by the people of Swaziland.

The situation was not comparable to Lesotho, because SA had objected to the manner in which the democratically elected government was removed by the then monarch of Lesotho, he said.

Nzo also denied that SA was supporting the pro-democracy forces in Nigeria.
Blanchard unveils resort plans on Sappi site

Amanda Vermeulen

SAPPI's rival for the Mozambican government's favour, US entrepreneur James Ulysses Blanchard III, unveiled plans yesterday to build an $800m residential and leisure complex on the site where Sappi had planned a forestry plantation.

The SA group, which was unable to contact Mozambican government officials over the past week, has been called to a meeting tomorrow.

Blanchard told a Sandton news conference the Mozambican government would take a stake in the project. He declined to give the amount.

Mozambique Enterprises' project would consist of a $550m residential development, with the balance invested in ecotourism facilities and casinos.

His project would put up $20m to bring wildlife into the planned game reserve. He said he had lined up US corporations and individual investors to buy into the scheme but refused to name them. Sappi's scheme would be relocated, he said.

Sappi — which had proposed a R200m forestry scheme on the site — read media reports at the weekend that its plan had been canned. Commercial manager Dave Wood said Mozambique Agriculture Minister Carlos do Rosario would not confirm that the project had been cancelled or relocated. He said the project's nature meant it could not be shifted to another site.

It is understood do Rosario asked Sappi's negotiators to bring two bottles of anti-dandruff shampoo with them to tomorrow's meeting.

Blanchard said the government had ditched Sappi's project to protect the biodiversity area. His project manager John Perrott said the development was one of the high risk speculative schemes around the world in which Blanchard and nine others had invested.
Mozambique’s version of the Sweetened Brown Paper

Mozambique’s version of the Sweetened Brown Paper
Maputo toll road attracts offers

BY ANN COTTON

Six consortiums have approached the government in a bid to get a slice of the road-building contract, worth about R500 million, involved in the revival of the Maputo corridor.

Details of the tendering process have still to be worked out, but in a significant departure from similar projects in the past, the proposed toll road, which will run from Witbank to Maputo, will cost the government nothing. The initial building and maintenance will be funded by the private sector. Returns to the private sector will be generated by the toll fees, which means that if the road is not adequately maintained, that source of income will be under threat.

Referring to the proposal, the director-general of the transport department, Ketsi Gerdian, said the government would be exposed to no financial risk on the road-building contract. This would be earned by the private sector.

While the proposal is in line with the operation of a large percentage of infrastructure projects in the major international economies, it marks a change for the South African construction industry.

As the chief executive of one of the major South Africa building groups pointed out: “We’ve used to being part of a financing package, but the difference now is that whoever gets the contract will own and run the toll facility.”

While he pointed out that the parties were still involved in the details of the tendering process, he remarked: “This is the only way we will be able to expand and maintain this country’s infrastructure.”

For the public, it represents a form of privatization. But for those who oppose it in principle, it probably represents the most acceptable form of privatization. With the enormous pressure on the government to develop the country’s infrastructure restrained by its financial resources, it is likely that many projects will not happen unless they are led by the private sector.

At this week’s conference on restructuring of state-owned enterprises, organized by Cosatu-linked research unit Nalid, such projects seemed to represent the only scope for agreement between the government, labour and the private sector.

The trade unions are vehemently opposed to privatization - at the Nalid conference, Cosatu general-secretary Sam Shabalala referred to the government’s obligations in terms of the RDP, the government’s attitude seemed uncertain with different players in different departments expressing conflicting views. Gordhan noted that the government was willing to formulate a national strategic vision for this and a document would be presented to Cabinet this week, the private sector is virtually unanimously supportive without a coherent strategy, the government and its alliance partner could lose the initiative to the private sector and that restructuring/privatization policy will be affected on an ad hoc basis determined by the objectives of public enterprise managers and private sector players.

There is little doubt that the resources available to Telkom’s management and its potential international partners ensure that they are directing the process of introducing a strategic equity partner to Telkom with liberalized conditions.

The international success rate of the sort of strategic alliance that Telkom is considering is between 20 and 30 percent – so “sparking” the conference, the deputy director-general of the state enterprises ministry, Sipho Shabalala, said that in the sort of competitive OCP block chain alliance with enterprises like Telkom, “the strategic interest of achieving the long-term win/win outcome tends to be unlikely or contingent on the equal distribution of the partners’ learning capabilities and their ability to accumulate the valuable assets. These include management and organizational skills, knowledge of the market and technological capability.”

Shabalala urged caution in relation to strategic alliances. “The critical issue is whether our state enterprises are ready for the marriage, do they have tacit knowledge, skills, organizational learning capabilities and right attitudes to benefit from strategic alliance management?”

The organizational capability and the willingness to learn is key to protecting competitive advantage in a competitive environment and in the context of the strategic direction of the venture.

Even in ideal circumstances, strategic alliances either fail or benefit one partner at the expense of the other.

While Telkom management has in part based its request for an equity partner on the need for technology transfer, Shabalala argued that technology transfer was not an assured process and outcome: “The ability and commitment to pass and to receive and internalize acquired technology is critical.” In general, partners bringing in pioneering proprietary technology tend to raise walls to make sure that their core competitive competence is not passed to the other partner.

Bringing an international perspective to this debate, British-based consultant Brenda Tietarn warned of the dangers of transferring too much control of SA’s infrastructure and utility services to transnational corporations. She said that the country’s growing power will rapidly come to see that the nation-states and national issues with which they are doing business.”
Karen Harverson went to Mozambique to be briefed on a possible boost to the economy

The R1-billion corridor to success

The R1-billion industrial corridors project in Maputo, if the R1-billion phosphate industry project to improve road and rail links between South Africa and Mozambique succeeds.

Primary aluminium producer Arafura may consider building a new smelter in Maputo as part of its long-term strategic planning. "The temptation would be to use power from Cahora Bassa," says managing director Bob Barbour adding that it is still just a vision.

The company is busy commissioning its 750-megawatt Cahora Bassa power plant in Richards Bay with a production capacity of 500,000 tons.

The new facility is expected to begin production by July this year.

"The project is one of the major new sources of power for southern Africa," says Barbour.

If the project in Maputo got the go-ahead, it seems likely that Foskor would increase its production.

Two options for transporting the rock to Maputo could be considered. One involves the building of a shunt pipe to transport the rock but this is less likely because of the general shortage of water in the area. The second option would be to build a track, and this could be facilitated by the plan to build a railway off the main development corridor from Richards Bay to Maputo via the Temane area.

"At present there are no pipeline facilities for the delivery of rock to Maputo and phosphate rock is not exported via Maputo by Foskor," says Verster.

In the second proposal, Maputo is being considered as a second option only if it involves a large fertilizer complex being built in Richards Bay with players such as Phalarosa and Foskor, and Norwegian company Hydro Agri which are bringing their own pipeline advantage to the table.

"As an option on the site such as Maputo could be considered because it is closer to Phalarosa," says an industry source.

Link-up: Matthews Phosa and Mabu Mahanjane on board for the Maputo development corridor.

Bid for the best route

The head of Johannesburg's construction company is designing a new R1-million link to the Mopani mine in the Mozambican border.

"We want to exploit the potential of this area," says Matthews Phosa.

The head of the development corridor team is to be a tailor-made between Woodside and Maputo, and says local companies, in cooperation with international partners, are lining up to bid for the contract.

"We will invite companies to submit proposals by mid-March to handle the engineering and to get the road and the bridge will be awarded in June," says Gerhardson.

Some people caution that the project may be too ambitious and that the road is likely to cost over a 20-year period.

Does your contract run for 10 years? Neither does ours

The road from the South African border to Maputo will shorten the 128km distance to 88km. Upgrading the road between Nelspruit and Richards Bay will begin this year, while the second phase into Mozambique will start early in 1997 at an estimated cost of R52 million. The kilometre Extensive work will be needed in the Waterberg region, in which could include widening the existing tunnel where the cost a kilometre may reach as much as R25 million.

Some road maintenance work will be spent on phosphate mining.

On track: Locals will benefit from the corridor.

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles.
"Maputo corridor" to cost R1-billion

Cape Town - Work to turn Maputo into a major conduit for South African exports will begin by June and cost R1-billion.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal told Parliament yesterday that the Government had spent R5-million on planning the "Maputo corridor" linking the Mozambican port with SA's industrial heartland.

Building it would cost R1-billion, with the private sector financing most of it, including a new toll road. Upgrading transport links on the route would cost about R600-million for roads and R250-million for rail. Renewing port facilities in Maputo would cost about R200-million. - Reuters
The appointment of Graca Machel to the Thebe Investment Corporation's (TIC) board should ensure it a first rate at Mozambique's privatisation cherry, Lutha Nyonyha, executive director of TIC and chief executive officer of its financial arm, Mwebi Financial Holdings, said the new appointments underline TIC's intention to be a major player in the Southern African region.

"Having people such as Machel and Stride Maslywa [chairman of Retrofit Holdings of Zimbabwe] on the board means we have a direct line to developments in those countries and are well placed to capitalise on new opportunities as they come up," he said.

In addition, original input from people in the know helps us to diversify in the right areas and maximise our growth potential," he said.

An obvious first choice for Thebe is Mozambique's airline, which is high up on the country's privatisation list and offers the complementarity that Thebe seeks. Its South African Express offshoot already flies to Namibia and Livingstone in Zambia, primarily for the tourism market. With tourism seen as a potential growth area for Mozambique, the synergy could be substantial.

Thebe Properties is also looking beyond South Africa's borders for possible investment opportunities, as is Thebe's financial services division. Moves in Zimbabwe to relax controls on foreign investment are to be welcomed, says Nyonyha, and should help the company to unlock growth potential.

Plans for Angola are still very much on the drawing-board stage, but options are being studied for trading, possibly in primary commodities.
The MINISTRY OF FINANCE

We refer to the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Finance for the years
ended 31 March 1996 and 1995, respectively. The financial statements
of the Ministry for the year ended 31 March 1996 are presented in
full in the Annual Report. The financial statements for the year
ended 31 March 1995 are also included in the Annual Report.

The following are our opinions:

1. The financial statements of the Ministry of Finance for the year
ended 31 March 1996 have been prepared in accordance with the
requirements of the Accounts Act, 1989.

2. The financial statements of the Ministry of Finance for the year
ended 31 March 1995 have been prepared in accordance with the
requirements of the Accounts Act, 1989.

We have examined the financial statements and have found them:

3. To be free from material error.

4. To be presented in a manner that is consistent with the accounting
principles followed in the past.

5. To provide a true and fair view of the financial position of the
Ministry of Finance at 31 March 1996 and 1995, respectively.

We have obtained all information and explanations which we have
considered necessary for the purposes of our audit.

We have made the following audit adjustments:

6. The adjustment of the estimate of depreciation for the year ended 31
March 1996 has been made.

7. The adjustment of the estimate of depreciation for the year ended 31
March 1995 has been made.

We have obtained all information and explanations which we have
considered necessary for the purposes of our audit.

We have concluded that the financial statements for the year ended
31 March 1996 and 1995, respectively, present a true and fair view of
the financial position of the Ministry of Finance.
Remote wilderness may end up as a beast and beach resort.
Renamo's Dhlakama holds high hopes for 1999 election

BY JOHN FLEMING
Beira, Mozambique

Afonso Dhlakama claims he is on holiday these days. But nothing, save the beachfront location of his house in central Mozambique, suggests anything of the sort. He spends most of the day darting between the fax machine, the telephone and a cluster of admirers huddled around a dinning room table.

A few years ago, Dhlakama was seen by most of the world as one of Africa’s most savage leaders. As commander of the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo) guerrilla movement he waged a war against the leftist Mozambican government that some estimate cost more than a million lives. Many, including leading human rights organisations, accused him and Renamo of countless atrocities during the 17-year civil war.

Today, the former guerrilla general has traded his fatigues for grey slacks and a Polo shirt, and spends his time directing his army of Renamo parliamentarians in their effort to gain a greater share of power in the governing of Mozambique. He took time out recently to reflect on his party’s hopes for the future. Mozambique’s long civil war and his past and present relationship with South Africa.

It is 16 months since UN-sponsored elections put 112 Renamo delegates in Mozambique’s parliament. Much is uncertain and many argue Renamo is still disorganised and beaten at every corner by the ruling Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo), with a majority 129 seats.

But one thing seems certain: Dhlakama, not known for his willingness to work problems out in the past, seems to be content to fight from inside the political process. A return to war, the former general stresses, is out of the question.

“The place for fighting now is in parliament,” said the son of a traditional chief. “I could cause a lot of trouble in Mozambique if I wanted to. I could take back to war at any moment. But I don’t want that,” said Dhlakama.

Dhlakama seems content to sit back and wait for the 1999 general elections to arrive. He is confident he will win.

“Officially, we are the minority party in parliament,” he said, “but on the ground, unofficially, we are the majority. I travel all over this country and everywhere I go people tell me they love Renamo. Even those who voted for Frelimo say their lives have not got any better and are ready to vote for us.”

About change … Dhlakama believes in parliament now

Mozambicans and western diplomats in Maputo familiar with Renamo say Dhlakama’s party is suffering from serious disorganisation and lack of funds that is hampering their effectiveness in parliament.

But, one Mozambican observer argues, Renamo has a strong following in the countryside and could do much better in the 1999 elections. Dhlakama, a 49-year-old father of five from the village of Mangonde, in central Sofala province, demes that his army ever committed any atrocities during the country’s civil war. He prefers instead to blame Frelimo propaganda for painting Renamo as armed bandits rampaging through the Mozambican countryside.

He even ventured to blame Frelimo for committing massacres just to have an incident to blame Renamo.

Such is the case with Homonze, a city in southern Mozambique where some 424 people were killed in 1987, including people who were in the town’s hospital at the time. Human Rights Watch concluded years ago that Homonze, the worst massacre of the war, was the work of Renamo.

The former general falls silent when asked about the incident. Then, pounding his fist, he accuses Frelimo of the massacre.

“Our troops never did anything like that. We were never in Homonze. That was a Frelimo thing. They did it and blamed it on Renamo,” he said.

Dhlakama also argued throughout that Renamo never relied on Rhodesian and South African military support as much as has been suggested and could have survived without outside support at all.

“We got a bit of help early on from the Rhodesians,” says Dhlakama. “The South Africans helped a bit more but only with small arms. We didn’t really need outside help. The biggest supplier of arms to Renamo was the Mozambican army. We would attack them, they would throw down their weapons and run away, leaving them for us,” he said.

Nearly all historians agree that Renamo was started by Rhodesian intelligence and later supported by massive South African military aid.

This aid continued even after an accord between the two countries in 1984 that promised an end to South African support of Renamo in return for Mozambique’s promise to stop harbouring ANC officials.

Today, Dhlakama says he has the utmost respect for President Nelson Mandela. “I respect him like my grandfather,” and claims he has a “great relationship” with Thabo Mbeki – Independent Foreign Service.
JOHN FLEMING of the Independent Foreign Service talks to former Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama.

AFONSO Dhlakama claims he is on vacation these days.

Nothing, save the beach front location of his house in central Mozambique, suggests anything of the sort.

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A few years ago Dhlakama was seen by most of the world as one of Africa's most savage leaders. As commander of the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo) guerrilla movement he waged a war against the leftist Mozambican government that some estimate cost over a million lives.

Many, including leading human rights organisations, accused him and Renamo of countless atrocities during the 17-year civil war.

Today the former guerrilla general has traded his fatigues for grey slacks and a Polo shirt and spends all his time directin his army of Renamo parliamentarians in their effort to gain a greater share of power in the governing of Mozambique.

Although busier than a stockbroker he took time out to reflect on his party's hopes for the future, Mozambique's long civil war and his past and present relationship with South Africa.

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"The place now for fighting is in parliament," said the son of a traditional chief.

"I could cause a lot of trouble in Mozambique if I wanted to. I could take us back to war in no moment. But I don't want that. Renamo doesn't want that. The Mozambican people don't want that," he said.

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Gencor’s investment in Mozambique worth $500m

David McKay

GENCOR’s mineral sands project in Mozambique would represent an investment of $600m, the mining house said yesterday.

The group — which was detailing international exploration plans worth $44m this year — said exploration on the Mozambique project showed a total resource of 1.1-billion tons yielding 3.98% heavy minerals, greater than the yield at Richards Bay.

The mine would produce 400,000 tons of slag a year.

The scheme would focus on two deposits near the northerly port-town of Mohehe and a licence area further south below Pebane.

A further option for a licence area existed between Quelimane and Chinde.

Mineral resources CE John Raubenheimer said a full feasibility study would be complete by June. “But the project already seems to be robust,” he said.

US exploration company Eldlow Resources was also involved in the project. The Mozambican government was represented in the project through its mineral resources ministry which has an option to take a small stake in the project in the future.

Gencor said it also had a 50% stake in a $100m underground nickel project in western Australia, in partnership with Australian company Forestana Gold.

The pilot plant was expected to produce more than 10,000 tons of nickel a year.

An A$30m joint project in the Australian province of Queens-land with Gencor’s coal company Inwe was exploring a shallow depth coal mine with an estimated resource of 500-million tons.

The group hoped to complete the feasibility studies by 1998 with an application for a mining development lease being made in 1999, he said.

Gencor was also negotiating with Cuban authorities to begin exploration on a joint nickel project. Raubenheimer was optimistic that an agreement to begin explorations would be concluded within the next few months.

Gencor would focus most of its other attentions on mining projects in Indonesia, the West African countries of Ghana, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast and countries within the Andean Cordillera, Raubenheimer said.
Renamo confident of 1999 election win

By John Fleming

BEIRA – Alfonso Dhlakama claims he is on vacation these days. Nothing, save the beachfront location of his house in central Mozambique, suggests anything of the sort.

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Many, including leading human rights organisations, accused him and Renamo of countless atrocities during the 17-year civil war.

Today, the former guerrilla general has traded in his fatigue for grey slacks and a polo shirt, and spends all his time directing his army of Renamo parliamentarians in their effort to gain a greater share of power in the governing of Mozambique.

Hopes for the future

Although busier than a stockbroker, he took time out recently to reflect on his party’s hopes for the future, Mozambique’s long civil war and his past and present relationship with South Africa.

It has been 16 months since United Nations-sponsored elections put 112 Renamo delegates in Mozambique’s parliament. Much is uncertain and many argue Renamo is still disorganised and beaten at every corner by Frelimo, with a majority 129 seats.

But one thing seems certain: Dhlakama, not known for his willingness to work problems out in the past, seems to be content to fight from inside the political process. A return to war, the former general stresses, is out of the question.

“The peace for fighting is now in parliament,” said the son of a traditional chief. “I could cause a lot of trouble in Mozambique if I wanted to, I could go back to war at any moment. But I don’t want that. Renamo doesn’t want that. The people don’t want that.”

Dhlakama seems content to sit back and wait for the 1999 general elections. He is confident he will win.

“Officially we are the minority party in Parliament,” he said, “but on the ground, unofficially we are the majority.”

“I travel all over this country and everywhere I go people tell me they love Renamo.”

Flashback... Frelimo leader Joaquin Chissano during the last election in Mozambique in 1994.

say their lives have not got any better and are ready to vote for us next time.”

Mozambicans and Western diplomats in Maputo familiar with Renamo say Dhlakama’s party is suffering from serious disorganisation and a lack of funds that is hampering their effectiveness in parliament.

But, one Mozambican observer argues, Renamo has a strong following in the countryside and could do much better in the 1999 elections.

Dhlakama, a 43-year-old father of five from the village of Mungunde in central Sofala province, denies that his army has committed any atrocities during the country’s civil war.

He prefers instead to blame Frelimo propaganda for painting Renamo as armed bandits rampaging through the Mozambican countryside.

He even blamed Frelimo for committing massacres just to have an incident to blame on Renamo.

Such is the case with Homonne, a city in southern Mozambique where some 424 people were killed in 1987, including people who happened to be in the town’s hospital. Human Rights Watch concluded years ago that Homonne, the worst massacre of the war, was the work of Renamo.

Dhlakama also argued throughout that Renamo never relied on Rhodesian and South African military support as much as has been suggested and could have survived without outside support.

“We got a bit of help from the Rhodesians,” said Dhlakama, “The South Africans helped a bit more but only with small arms. We didn’t really need outside help.” — Independent Foreign Service
Revival for Maputo's port

BY JON BEVERLEY

Durban — Maputo's container terminal will be handling 100,000 containers a year in four year's time, David Coty, the chief executive director of Mozambique International Port Services, told the Intermodal Africa conference yesterday.

Capacity is about 12,000 containers a year at present but a joint venture company that started up on March 9 is to pump R20 million into the venture this year and a further R10 million later. He estimated that 80 percent of the traffic in 2000 would be in transit to or from other African countries.

Coty said P&O Australia was taking a 30 percent stake and managing the scheme. Renues would have 37 percent and the Mozambican railway company CFM 33 percent.

Coty said the service had won a 10-year lease on the property, which it would develop by refurbishing the quay cranes, buying spreaders and spare parts, upgrading the terminal paving and lighting, and moving to computisation.

A dredging programme was under way to deepen the Polana Channel to 9.4m and a tender for a third crane would go out soon.

The developments in the Maputo corridor to provide road and rail links and growth in the CFM railway system were necessary of the target of 100,000 containers was to be reached, Coty said.
Maputo links encouraged

Inge Salgado

MPUMALANGA premier Mathews Phosa urged government and business yesterday to join hands in developing the Maputo corridor to create jobs, develop skills and create links between industries.

Speaking at an investor seminar on the Maputo corridor in Nelspruit, Phosa said the initiative was the first step in “dynamically developing” the regional economy with Mozambique and Swaziland, based on the principles of soft political borders and mutually beneficial regional co-operation.

The project was launched last year when Mpumalanga signed sister agreements with Mozambique’s Gaza and Maputo provinces. Phosa said local government should be involved in promoting “spin-offs” of the initiative for local small business, whose contribution to economic development was sometimes neglected.

Phosa said the tourism industry and agricultural development in Mpumalanga, Gaza and Maputo provinces had the potential to contribute “enormously” to their upliftment, if planned correctly.

A number of pilot projects in the agricultural sector were being investigated in Gaza.

Construction of the N4 road between Witbank and Komatspoort was well under way and the road would be extended to Maputo.

It was vital that roads and rail links between Gauteng through Mpumalanga to Maputo harbour were optimally developed, he said.

Agreements signed with Gaza and Maputo would see public administration training in those provinces, including training Mozambique government officials in “business English”.

He said border post control had been identified as a “problem area” and co-operation in this regard would continue.

Mpumalanga economic affairs and tourism MEC Jacob Mabena said the project would turn the province into Africa’s “industrial development mecca”. A provincial participation mechanism would be set up to facilitate further projects in line with the Maputo corridor initiative.
Law firms slate transport department

LAW firms have criticised the transport department's decision to appoint Ismail Ayob & Associates - attorneys for President Nelson Mandela - and three other law firms to work on the Maputo development corridor project without advertising the posts.

Transport department road division head Nazir Ali said the department and the Development Bank of Southern Africa, which is also in charge of the project, had not advertised for the lawyers' positions, but had picked them from a selection of eight.

"We invited eight law firms to come to the bank and then we selected four after we saw their proposals," he said.

He rejected criticism from other law firms, who asked to remain anonymous, that the appointments breached tender procedures. He said the process had been open, transparent and in accordance with departmental and SA Road Board requirements.

Continued on Page 2

Lawyers

Continued from Page 1

In any case, there would not have been enough time to advertise, and the complaints were a case of "sour grapes," he said.

The other appointees are US law firm White & Case, Philip Loots & Associates and Mozambican firm José Manuel Caldeira.

Ayob, who also represented former Wits University deputy vice-chancellor William Makgoba during the recent controversy at Wits University, could not be contacted for comment.

Ali said the department was also recruiting financial advisers to help draw up tender documents, but had not yet taken a decision on who the advisers should be. It had not advertised for these posts either, but had contacted every merchant bank in the country.

"There is not a single case we have not spoken to," Ali said.

The project involves construction of a toll road between Witbank and Maputo, a revamp of Maputo harbour and improvements to rail links between SA and Mozambique. Transport director-general Ketso Gordhan has estimated the infrastructure will cost R1bn.

Ali said foreign contractors had already expressed "tremendous interest" in the project, which was likely to start in 18 to 24 months.
Aid donors urge Mozambique to continue reforms

By LAMH CHRISTIE

Maputo — Mozambique's main aid donors are urging the country to press on with economic reforms ahead of a crucial international conference next month, the weekly newspaper Savana said at the weekend.

Savana said it had obtained a document delivered by the donors to the Mozambican government in January which set the agenda for the April 17-19 meeting in Paris of the World Bank's consultative group on Mozambique.

The group will bring together donors to discuss the country's funding needs for the coming year. This year's national budget of about $600 million has a deficit of 33.7 percent, which can only be plugged by foreign financing.

The document's most controversial points are demands for an end to the state monopoly on importing refined fuels, for further privatisation in the transport sector, and to switch funds from state media to the judiciary or legislature. The donors want a stop to the monopoly on fuel imports enjoyed by the state oil company, Petromoc, by the end of the month. They are demanding procedures that will allow private concerns to import refined fuels.

The document says that during this year the publicly owned ports and rail company should be privatised, or that the management of main ports and railways be placed in private hands. The donors want Mozambican Airlines to be privatised by June. Last year 78 state-owned firms, including 12 large ones, were sold off, and the trade union federation claims this cost 50,000 jobs.

The donors want the government to take a timetable for local elections to Paris. Alfredo Gama, the minister of state administration, has said he wants municipal elections held in the middle of next year.

The donors repeated a call to privatisse the two state-owned banks but the issue is no longer controversial and the sale is expected this year.

Privatisation management of the customs service is another point on which there seems to be broad agreement. Last year Tomas Salomao, the finance minister, denounced the chaotic state of the customs.

The donors are pushing the government to implement pledges on fighting corruption by setting up a high authority against corruption by the end of the month.

Reuter
vey a legal maximum of 8 200 kg (89%), Henren Transport conveyed chemicals weighing 29 040 kg on a truck that had a legal maximum capacity of 16 400 kg (77%), and Rolloco Roofing loaded a truck with 34 040 kg of sheeting (62%).

The four companies with the highest average overloads named in the report are Romatrans (4 815 kg per axle), BVB Transport (4 625 kg), Rabes Transport (4 524 kg) and Hobtrans (4 365 kg).

The Road Freight Association, which represents more than 50% of transport contractors, says it’s joining the campaign to curtail overloading.

As a voluntary organisation it cannot take punitive action against its members found guilty of overloading, other than ask them to resign “But,” says CE Herman Lemmer, “we are doing our best to convince members not to overload as a matter of policy, and to try to guard against accidental overloading.”

The association also wants regulations to be amended so that action can be taken “against shippers who aid and abet carriers in gross policy overloading.”

Lemmer says factors leading to overloading include economic pressure on transport contractors and shippers, and lack of proper law enforcement, except in KwaZulu-Natal where the main routes are well controlled.

“Law enforcement doesn’t appear to be a high priority with the authorities,” he says “The lack of law enforcement is encouraged by the shortage of funds needed to place weighbridges, and to pay well-trained staff to enforce regulations.”

Like other provinces, KwaZulu-Natal has the power to station weighbridges at weighbridges, and punish offenders, but unlike the other provinces, it’s determined to do its best to stop overloading.

Provincial authorities believe overloaded heavy-duty vehicles cause about 60% of the damage done to SA’s roads.

MALUTU CORRIDOR

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In Mozambique
New Feminism

Women are slowly becoming aware of the need to assert themselves.
Bids invited for R1bn Maputo corridor

By Robyn Chalmers

THE transport department this week kickstarted the R1bn Maputo corridor after inviting the private sector to bid for the construction of the toll road between Witbank and Maputo.

In an important departure from past road projects, transport department roads chief director Nazir Ali said yesterday the proposed toll road, estimated to cost between R300m and R400m in two years, was not expected to cost government anything.

It would be undertaken on a build, operate and transfer basis. The initial building and maintenance were expected to be funded by the private sector which would generate returns through toll fees.

Ali said there had been substantial interest shown by the private sector on the project. All tenders, local and international, would be considered provided they had a strong social responsibility component. The final deadline for tenders was May 24.

The road component of the Maputo corridor development consisted of construction of about 50km of new road and upgrading of 46km in Mozambique, as well as the upgrading of part of SA's N4.

Ali said about R70m had been set aside in the current financial year for N4 upgrading, to be reallocated to other areas should private sector funding be secured.

The moving ahead of the road component of the Maputo corridor was expected to spur on those departments handling harbour and rail linkages. To dredge and upgrade Maputo's port, R300m would be needed, and another R250m to improve the rail link.

An investors' conference was scheduled for May 6 and 7 in Maputo, to secure private sector investment in infrastructure in the area.
Opportunity knocks for Maputo

A DECISION by Gencor to proceed with a third aluminium smelter in Maputo, pending the outcome of a feasibility study, could do for the Mozambican port what Alusaf did for the once sleepy village of Richards Bay.

Mozambique, although still ranked by the World Bank as the poorest country in the world, is enjoying the dividends of peace after a 17-year civil war. The economy is growing — admittedly off a very low base — at more than 5% a year and South African tourists have started returning. Yet large-scale private sector investment has, until recently, veered elsewhere. This could change dramatically should Gencor proceed with a smelter in Maputo.

Gencor chairman Brian Gilbertson puts the capital cost of a 240 000 tons per annum smelter at $1-billion; with the capacity to expand this to 490 000 tons per annum — equal in size to Alusaf’s Hillside smelter. This would substantially increase the size of Mozambique’s R10-billion a year economy and create employment for thousands of Mozambicans in downstream industries. It would also catapult Gencor into the ranks of the top two or three integrated aluminium producers in the world.

A “go” decision depends on several factors, most important of which is access to competitively priced hydro-electric power from the Zambez River. The rehabilitation of the Maputo port and the Mpumalanga corridor at a cost of more than R1-billion is essential to attract exporters from Mpumalanga, who stand to reap substantial savings by redirecting exports from Durban to Maputo.

No agreement on power supply and the critical issue of price has yet been signed, nor is there any certainty on the kind of tax incentives being offered by Mozambique. Labour rates in Mozambique are considerably lower than in South Africa, and experience garnered in the course of building the Hillside smelter would prove invaluable in constructing a third smelter in Maputo.

“...we have gained a great deal of pertinent experience during the building of Hillside,” says Bart Barbour, Alusaf managing director. “Now that the Hillside smelter is running smoothly and reaching full production within a few months, the project team is available for work elsewhere.”

Mr Barbour says the company is just one of several aluminium producers considering Maputo as a location for new smelters. The growth in world demand for aluminium provides scope for roughly one new smelter the size of Hillside each year.

Several members of the Hillside project team have been redeployed to investigate the feasibility of a Maputo smelter. Richards Bay is not considered an ideal site for a third smelter due to the need for geographical diversification.

Gencor is known to be looking at restructuring its global aluminium interests, possibly housing them under a single off-shore entity Gencor subsidiary Buliton — which has substantial interests in bauxite mining, alumina production and two aluminium smelters in South America — currently has an arm’s-length relationship with Alusaf.
Planned upgrade of Maputo corridor

By: Chinwedie Emeche

DumaNorway, under way to revitalise the Maputo corridor and the organisation of the Investor's Conference in Maputo on May 6 and 7. The railway link between Komati and Maputo will be upgraded as part of this project, which includes the realignment of the Maputo route at a cost of R70 million.

A new road linking the two countries' railway systems is also under consideration. Tenders are open for designing and executing new railway and other projects in the region. Improvements in transport and services will be sought.

The Mozambican government, in an attempt to ensure the exchange of goods between the two countries, is negotiating the current situation, aiming to strengthen the current infrastructure.
Swaziland for Maputo corridor

NELSPRUIT — Plans are afoot to include Swaziland in the R2bn Maputo corridor development initiative, Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa said yesterday.

Announcing plans to establish a joint task team to explore ways of including Swaziland in the project, Phosa said the mountain kingdom would provide the most direct link for northern portions of KwaZulu-Natal to the proposed corridor, it was reported.

"We are looking at creating a direct transport link straight through Swaziland from northern KwaZulu-Natal to serve as a second feeder for the harbour (at Maputo)," Phosa said. "The Mozambicans are very intent on keeping their pristine southern areas unspoiled for tourism, so the route through Swaziland is perfect."

Botswana had also asked to be included in the initiative, forming a northern import/export trans-
Maputo Corridor will create 100 000 jobs

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Reporter

The Government has committed R1.5-billion to the Maputo Development Corridor, a job creating several multi-million rand projects aimed at increasing transport links in southern Africa.

Mpumalanga MEC for Finance Jacques Modipane told The Star the move by the national Government was a challenge to big business to claim a stake in the development which will yield an estimated 100 000 jobs.

Modipane also disclosed that substantial resources in the R4.8-billion provincial budget that he presented last week would be focused on making the Maputo Development Corridor a reality. "We call on local, national and international businesses to join us in this development. The national Government's commitment of this substantial amount of money proves our desire to make this development a reality," Modipane said.

He added that the corridor initiative formed part of the provincial government plans to reduce unemployment.

"The long-term benefits of these initiatives will manifest themselves in further bilateral development programmes that will assist the sub-region in infrastructure upliftment, job creation, improvement of skills and the establishment of big and small business," Modipane said.

Other objectives of the development corridor include the revitalisation of economic links between South Africa and Mozambique, and to enhance the process of economic integration within southern Africa and improving the region's global competitiveness.

It will also create opportunities for the private sector and stimulate small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.

The initiative also intends to cement regional ties between the parties involved and to benefit the communities by creating jobs, developing skills and creating links between industries and businesses on an ongoing and growing basis.

The project is also a way of establishing the first step in developing the broader regional economy with Mozambique, Swaziland and possibly Botswana.

Discussion have been held with authorities from Botswana. There has also been talk of linking south and west Zimbabwe with the corridor.

Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa said the corridor will have a number of spin-offs for his province, Gauteng, the North West and Northern Province.

"It will increase our tax base and have countless spin-offs for emerging business who will benefit from out-sourcing programmes from the large corporations," Phosa said. Malayman and local business had shown interest.
Maputo project set to blast off

By Maxwell Phikulul

The continued fall of the South African rand and the landmine question in Mozambique must not be allowed to prevent investment in the Maputo Corridor says the Department of Transport.

Special assistant to the director in the Department of Transport Elina Pearce says the instability of the rand, and the threat of landmines in Mozambique must not derail the Maputo Development Corridor investors' conference scheduled for the Mozambican capital next week.

Over the past few weeks the rand has lost considerable ground against the American dollar and there are rumours in business circles about an imminent flight by investors from the country to make safer economies. However, Pearce is confident the rand's behaviour will have little or no significant impact on fresh and big projects like the Maputo Development Corridor post venture.

Presidents Nelson Mandela and Joaquim Chissano are to jointly host the Maputo meeting.

Delegates to the conference will be drawn from the business communities, public and the private sectors as well as potential investors from across the globe.

Pearce, who is also South Africa's national projects manager for the Portuma-Maputo project, says efforts have been made to remove landmines that were scattered throughout Mozambique during the civil war.

The area through which the proposed toll road will stretch, from Maputo to Wilanks, has already been cleared of landmines and other potentially dangerous explosives like landmines.

"And, in fact, the main focus and thrust of this conference remains that of stimulating growth and development within Mozambique and South Africa," Pearce said.

The Maputo meeting will be founded on the basis of mutual understanding between the two participating countries, with a strong call for the public and private sectors from both countries to become active participants in the project.

Policy framework

The main objective of next week's gathering is to market the concept of the Maputo Development Corridor to would-be investors. A draft investment policy framework will be announced and investment pledges will also be taken before the close of the conference.

The toll road, Pearce says, has already gone out to tender and companies from both Mozambique and South Africa are now bidding for the lucrative contract.

She appeals to the business communities and other potential investors to take full advantage of the conference and to consider the benefits of assessing in the development corridor.

Mozambique and South Africa are the fastest growing economies in the world today, with almost unlimited potential for growth and development. Benefits from the establishment of the Maputo Development Corridor will not be confined to Southern Africa and Mozambique alone. Other countries in the region will also see their quest for economic growth and development receive a lifeline.

President Nelson Mandela
Back to the future for the Moz economy?

THE RECONQUIRING of the road from Komatipoort to Maputo by the Mozambican authorities from plundering rogues is the first stage of an ambitious plan to revive the once vibrant trade and tourist industry from South Africa. In this the second of a two-part series, Independent Newspapers Features Editor JIM SMITH looks at how the re-opening of the Maputo Corridor will allow South Africa’s neighbour to re-assert its natural economic importance.

From the 1950s to the 1970s, the route from Komatipoort eastwards was for Transvaalers the road to the paradise of then Lourenco Marques, a journey fondly remembered by families who took advantage of the perfect beaches and placed islands. Then it became the road through hell in the days of ambushes and convoys as the Mozambican government fought the South African-backed Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo) in the 1980s — a time when bandits exploited the conflict to prey on passers-by.

Even now, the bush along the road is strewn with hundreds of rusted wrecks of cars and trucks. The imagination invents scenes of thugs with AK-47s and spies passing on goods, although it may simply be that some of these cars died natural deaths with no means to revive them — or even to bury them decently in scrapyards.

Mozambique suffered its first economic collapse with the Portuguese exodus at the time of independence, followed by a spurt of growth in the late 1970s only to be undone by the second, South Africa-fed collapse of the early 1980s civil war, only resolved with the 1992 peace accord that led to the elections of October 1994.

Even before the Maputo Corridor project begins, the road from Komatipoort to the Maputo outskirts has been purposefully reconquered by the Mozambican authorities from any rogues who might still consider plundering there.

As frequently as every 500 metres and never more than two kilometres apart, one or two policemen from the special Lightning Brigade unit are posted in tents to maintain the prevailing peace on the road. The police are armed with assault rifles and there have been no reports of attacks on the road, which diplomats confirm is safe and which has been repaved from the Ressano Garcia border post for most of its length to Maputo.

The new route will be about 40km shorter than at present, and will include a one-stop border post to simplify and speed up crossing. The toll road will follow the existing wide road from the border to Moamba and from there a new road will be built straight to Maputo, no longer angling south from Moamba to Boane and then on to Maputo.

The new route will also give quicker access to the under-developed beaches north of Maputo in addition to the four unused bridges around Moamba, there is a fifth overpass on the road that does always bear some traffic. It is at the junction of a crossroads into the town of Moamba, a subsistence-farming and railway town located about 40km from the border and a few kilometres north of the Maputo road.

But the Moamba flyover is so little used that truck drivers who know the area cut across the single carriage way and take a shortcut via the on-ramp. After all, not a single yield, stop or directional road sign discourages such habits.

Neither is there a line painted here or at any other point on this road for the 100km from Ressano Garcia until the final 20km into Maputo.

Moomba, the only town of consequence along the Mozambican leg, symbolises the pain of past decades — as well as the potential of the corridor for Mozambique.

Two trains a day call in each direction at Moamba’s quaint but decayed station, where just one track is in service and the rest of the sidings overgrown and disused. Most of the brick homesteads in the farmlands beyond the edges of the town of 14 000 people are abandoned and gutted, victims of the decade-long bush war from 1964 until independence or of the civil strife and banditry of the 1980s.

Moamba regional administrator Romao Muthusse calls cattle once abounded in the sprawling district, now there are few. The only signs of economic activity along the corridor road are the piles of hardwood and sacks of thatching grass, hacked from the bush by peasants who live beyond the verges in tiny reed huts. Ancient trucks travel the road and buy up the wood and thatching to resell to squatters and refugees in city markets.

Thus reality notwithstanding, Muthusse envisions a future of hope, thanks to the corridor a rebuilt cattle herd, and even an economic processing zone, with canning and other benefitting of crops from a revived fruit and tomato industry.

Jeanne Stephens, the Canadian-born manager of the Austral consulting firm in Maputo which is facilitating several aspects of the corridor project, says Muthusse’s notions are not so far-fetched.

With the new road, Moamba will be just 40km from Maputo rather than 80 as it is now. Moamba could become a pivotal crossroads for traffic to the proposed national park bordering the Kruger National Park, as well as to the beaches north of Maputo.

The point is that the corridor from Gauteng to Maputo has been a significant transportation channel ever since 1838, when Louis Trichardt trekked from the Transvaal to Delagoa Bay.

The first road linking Maputo and the Eastern Transvaal was constructed in 1871. By the late 1870s, the customs revenues from trade along the route were a significant source of income for Mozambique — as was the income from migrant workers on South Africa’s young mines, a declining but still critical source of revenue for the Mozambican government.

The rail line to Ressano Garcia was started in 1884 and finished a decade later, with service to Pretoria starting in 1895.

Maputo is the closest deep-water port to Gauteng, the Northern Province and Mpuamulanga, and carried 40% of Transvaal’s foreign trade before Mozambican independence.

The devastating civil war slashed the percentage to five percent of foreign trade today.

Therefore, unlike some well-intentioned government development projects motivated by political imperatives devoid of economic logic such as the South African grand apartheid “decentralisation” schemes of the 1950s to 1970s, the corridor project starts from a base of common sense and practical value.

The corridor thus will not be artificially created. Rather, it was artificially destroyed by conflict; now it seeks to reassert its natural economic importance.
Mandela aims to attract Maputo-corridor investors

By Ross Harding

Maputo—President Nelson Mandela will host a two-day conference starting today to promote investment in the Maputo corridor transportation project.

The revitalisation of the Maputo corridor comes at a time when southern Africa is experiencing an investment boom in port and transportation links, with upgrades under way at Walvis Bay in Namibia, Beira in Mozambique, Mombasa in Tanzania and South African ports.

Mozambique is pinning much of its hopes for development on its programme of re-integrating the Beira and Maputo harbours into the region's international economy.

Before independence in Mozambique, Maputo harbour handled 40 per cent of shipping for what is now the Gauteng area. Today it handles only 5 per cent. Changing that will be no easy task. Despite offering Johannesburg business a shorter distance to the sea, Maputo is plagued with troubles.

The United States has withheld food aid and threatened to cut off financial support because 1 800 tons of donated food was stolen from Maputo harbour.

The Paris Club of creditor nations, which has been pushing for debt rescheduling with Mozambique, has been highly critical of the country's government.

According to the Mozambique newspaper Imparcial, the Dutch foreign ministry slammed the Mozambique government at a Paris Club meeting last month for "widespread corruption" that "makes it impossible" for economic development to take place.

Large contracts to the upgrade Maputo harbour and the connecting road and railroad networks are expected to be announced at the conference. The organisers also expect to name the winner of the contract to dredge the Maputo harbour channel.

On Friday, Sumitomo Bank of Japan announced that it had joined Abra Bank to support a consortium of South African and Mozambican construction, civil engineering and consulting firms bidding for the Maputo corridor concession.

Sumitomo and Abra are backing the Consortium Via do Sol in its bid to build, finance and operate a R1 billion toll road linking Johannesburg to Maputo. The consortium includes Group Five, Genuaker Construction, Kreeve Steyn, BKS and the Profitel group, a Portuguese-owned consulting engineering firm based in Mozambique.

Despite the controversies, Maputo harbour increased the amount of cargo it handled by 26 percent last year and the country's railway cargo increased by 18 percent.

In February, France pledged $4 million to upgrade the railway links to Nacala in northern Mozambique.

Maputo harbour will get a $7.5 million container terminal able to handle 100,000 containers a year by 1999.

The upgrade will be handled by a joint venture company 37 percent owned by Remus South Africa, 30 percent by PeO Australia and 33 percent by CEM, the Mozambique state-owned railway company. — Independent Foreign Service
Sumitomo, Absa link up on project

JAPAN’s Sumitomo Bank has joined Absa Bank in supporting a consortium of SA and Mozambican firms bidding for the R1bn contract to construct a toll road between Witbank and Maputo.

The toll road will form the backbone of the SA government’s Maputo Corridor project, which gets under way today with a two-day investment conference in Maputo.

By revitalising the transport route between Gauteng and its closest port, Maputo, the two governments aim to generate savings in costs and time and facilitate tourism in Mozambique.

The Via do Sol Consortium, including Group Five, Grimaker Construction, Keeve Steyn, BRS Incorporated and Maputo-based consulting engineering group Profabri, will bid for the contract, which will be awarded on a build, operate and transfer basis.

The Maputo Corridor project constitutes an important departure from previous SA road projects in that it is

Continued on Page 2

Toll road

Continued from Page 1

not expected to cost government anything. Transport department roads chief director Nazir Ali said last month the initial building, estimated to cost between R300m and R400m in two years, was expected to be funded by the private sector, which would generate returns through toll fees.

The private sector had shown substantial interest in the project. All tenders, local and international, would be considered provided there was a strong social responsibility component.

Consortium chairman Bheki Bornheimer said he was confident the consortium would be a formidable contender in the bidding process, which starts on May 24. A trans-border selection process had been under way for nearly a year to match the requisite talents to the tasks involved.

This was the first corridor development since the government of national unity came to power, and its success was vital if similar projects were to follow, and Bornheimer: “We believe the bid will not simply be won by the biggest consortium, but by the group which can demonstrate an understanding of the complex development task which has to be undertaken.”

Alan Dawson, the leader of the consortium’s delegation to the Maputo conference, said the backing by Sumitomo Bank and Absa, as well as the assistance of UK engineering consultancy the Mott MacDonald Group, would enhance the consortium’s bid.

The road component of the Maputo corridor development consisted of construction of about 60km of new road and upgrading of 46km in Mozambique, as well as the upgrading of part of SA’s N4.

The development project also included the dredging and upgrading of the Maputo harbour, expected to cost R300m, and improvements to the railway link at a further R25m.

See Page 3
Conference tackles cross-border project

Stephen Laidler

MAPUTO. — Presidents Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and Nelson Mandela of SA are to open a conference in Maputo today which is expected to give impetus to a project to upgrade transport links and generate new investment on both sides of the border.

Potential investors from several countries, ministers and senior public servants would discuss options for the Maputo-Mpumalanga development corridor which include an upgraded toll road from Witbank and improvements to the rail line from the border at Komatiport to the Mozambican capital, and rehabilitation of the port.

Easier access to international transport links via Maputo could benefit industries in the eastern and northern parts of the country. By cutting costs and turnaround times, the new links have the potential to make marginal operations profitable and to attract new investment able to use local raw materials.

Improved telecommunications links would benefit business and tourism. Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa is on record as wanting to develop holiday packages which would include game park visits in his province and beach holidays in Mozambique.

The SA department of roads has a major tender for the upgrade of the N4, and Transnet and the Mozambican railway system are understood to be negotiating co-operation on improvements to the plant, management of the railways and of Maputo harbour.

SAPA reports that Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said an accord on agricultural development accord between SA and Mozambique was to be signed.
Mandela in praise of Maputo corridor

Stephen Lauer

MAPUTO — The planned Maputo-Beira rail corridor fitted firmly into SA’s growth and development strategy and would strengthen regional cooperation, President Nelson Mandela told a corridor investors’ conference in Maputo yesterday.

Centred on major infrastructure investment projects to improve the port of Maputo and upgrade the rail and road links between the two countries, the corridor aims to attract a significant private sector investment.

Among major projects presented yesterday was a plan by Mozal, in which Gencor and the Industrial Development Corporation are the principal shareholders, to build an aluminium smelter in or near Maputo. Similar to Alusab’s new Hillside plant, it would produce 245,000 tons, a year increasing to 400,000 tons by 2004.

Total investment would exceed $1.6bn and the project would create several thousand jobs.

Representatives of SA and international banks, construction companies and suppliers of telecommunications and signalling equipment are among the more than 550 participants at the conference, opened jointly by Mandela and Mozambique’s President Joaquim Chissano.

Mandela said the project reflected the SA government’s investment strategy as it was seeking public-private partnerships, significant infrastructure investment, stimulation of economic sectors capable of boosting foreign exchange earnings, job creation and human resource development.

Transnet and the Mozambican railway system CFM took the first step towards a joint venture to upgrade and operate the 88km rail line from the Rossano Garcia border post to Maputo harbour when a declaration of intent was signed at the conference.

It is understood Transnet will own 16% and CFM 84% of the company which will also manage the line and the port’s rail facilities. Transnet had initially hoped for a larger stake, but CFM is understood to have responded to World Bank pressure to raise its own stake and that of potential private sector investors.

SA’s Ponto Marine and Mozambique’s state-owned Bimodra signed a declaration of intent to form a joint venture to dredge Maputo harbour.

The project will significantly improve Maputo’s ability to handle larger ships.

Initial investment in the upgrade of the N4 between Witsand and Maputo was likely to be R400m, with a final investment reaching between R1bn and R1.5bn, an official said.

Tenders for the construction and operation of the 30-year toll road concession are due on May 24, but the deadline could be extended by a month.

Among the leading consortia understood to be involved are the Via Duesi group, and a group including LTJ Construction and Murray & Roberts Stocks & Stocks and Basil Reed are understood to be discussing a joint bid with French construction giant Bouygues Khurafi of Kuwait was likely to team up with Concord, Wilson Bayley Holmes, Nishin Matsui of Japan and Mota of Portugal, sources said.
Maputo project to ‘boost region’

From Sapa

Maputo — President Nelson Mandela said yesterday that private-sector involvement was essential to the success of the Maputo development corridor.

Speaking at an investor conference in Maputo, Mandela said the governments of Mozambique and South Africa had been working together over the past six months to establish the necessary foundations to launch the project.

"The task now is to maximise the private-sector participation, essential to the success of the project," he said.

"The development and cooperation elements of the initiative will make an important contribution to the peace and stability in South Africa."

He said investors had the opportunity to make the development corridor meaningful and sustainable, while earning profit for themselves.

"Business often, and quite correctly, is in the habit of urging government to create conditions in which investment can thrive. This is one good example of such conditions, created with visionary zeal and a knack for practical detail," he said.

Mandela said the conference was the first of many steps to engage the private sector in the initiative. Key infrastructural projects, some subject to agreement at the conference, would improve efficiency in transportation as well as increase the carrying capacity for road, rail and port traffic, he said.

"The toll road from Witbank to Maputo, for example, would involve the private sector not only in construction, but also in its operation over a long period. Similarly, the upgrading of the port and rail facilities would be undertaken on a joint-venture basis between South Africa and Mozambique, with the private sector playing a critical role."

"Substantial private-sector interest already exists and preparations have begun," Mandela said.

He told the conference the corridor had strategic significance in more ways than one.

"It is a practical implementation of the commitment of our governments to regional cooperation within southern Africa. Already, the mutual advantages for Mozambique and South Africa stand out for all to see," he said.

"Simply put, the corridor makes access to and from Maputo easier and more efficient. It makes expansion of existing operations in mining, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism feasible, and it opens substantial new investment opportunities in these sectors."

Local benefits, particularly in terms of jobs and the development of social services, would be felt along the corridor and beyond, Mandela said. Sub-corridors would open gateways to communities in Mpumalanga and Northern Province, and in the northern areas of Mozambique.
Maputo Corridor costs R1-bn

Development will eventually benefit entire Southern African region

Numerous amounts of work requiring enormous amounts of money

"To get the transport infrastructure in place and fully operational, just the road and rail systems alone will cost us over one billion rand," he said.

Boost economies

The corridor will not only link Maputo with Mpuama but will reach out to the entire Southern African region.

It will boost the economies of the region and increase foreign international investment in Mozambique and South Africa.

Maharaj said although a lot of money was going to be spent on the project, it was worth it because transport unlocks the doors to investment.

He said the first step — which will propel the resuscitation of the transport network — is the finalisation of an historic joint rail and harbour venture between the two governments.

Thus, he said, would attract investors from parastatals and the private sector from the respective governments.

Projected private sector equity in the entire Maputo Development Corridor project stands at 51 percent.

Nelson Mandela

Construction of the standard road linking Mpumalanga and Maputo is expected to start around August this year and is expected to be completed over 18 months.

"As for the rail agreements on construction will be ready by November this year and we expect to start the rehabilitation process in January 1997," said Maharaj.

Overall, the transport network is expected to be fully ready in two years' time.

He told Sametan Business that at least ten international construction companies are vying for the road and rail rehabilitation tender contract.
SA, Mozambique sign pacts to boost Maputo initiative

Two historic agreements were signed yesterday between South Africa and Mozambique to finalise co-operation in agriculture, trade and economic development. President Nelson Mandela and Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano signed the agreements at the start of a two-day conference on the Maputo Development Corridor - a job-creating, multi-million rand project aimed at integrating infrastructure network to increase transport links in southern Africa.

The agricultural agreement is to formalise the involvement of South African farmers, led by Freedom Front leader Gen Constand Viljoen and the South African Farmers Union, in Mozambique. The agreement provides for co-operation and protection of SA interests in agricultural and private sector development in Mozambique.

In an address to the conference, Mandela said the development and co-operation elements of the Maputo initiative will make an important contribution to peace and stability in South Africa.

Mandela threw the gauntlet to the private sector and challenged it to match the boldness of the South African and Mozambican governments, who have joined hands to get the initiative off the ground. He said the significance of the conference lay in providing opportunities for investors to help make the Maputo Development Corridor a meaningful and sustainable initiative, all the same time as earning a profit for themselves.

"The corridor has strategic significance in more ways than one. It is a practical implementation of the commitment of our governments to regional cooperation within southern Africa. Already, the mutual benefits of such co-operation for both Mozambique and South Africa stand out for all to see. The South African government is committed to co-operating with Mozambique in its reconstruction as outlined in the Economic Recovery Programme. The Maputo Development Corridor initiative represents one of the major undertakings in this regard."

"The corridor initiative also fits firmly within South Africa's own strategy for growth and development. In this project are contained the most important elements of our investment strategy, such as partnership of government and the private sector, investment in infrastructure, the stimulation of sectors that boost foreign exchange earnings, the attention to developing our human capital, and the creation of jobs," Mandela said. - Political Correspondent
Major companies vie for Maputo job

By Maxwell Plirkisi

MAPUTO — Major international companies, a top South African construction and road building outfit and a leading Mozambican company are in the running for the Maputo Development Corridor contract.

Speaking shortly after President Nelson Mandela and Jacquant Chissano had addressed the investors' conference for the project in the Mozambican parliament on Monday, Alan Dawson, leader of the Consortium Via Do Sol's delegation, said his multinational organisation was vying for the contract.

"A careful trans-border selection process had been underway for nearly a year to match the requisite talents to the task."

"This corridor development in South Africa since the Government of National Unity came into power has to succeed if others are to follow," he said.

The group says it has expertise in both South Africa and Mozambique.

"We have one of the leading international banks and its local partner on board as well as the assistance of a top UK engineering consultancy, the Mac Adam Group, to support our bid," Dawson said.

The major partners in Via do Sol at this stage include Group Five Limited, Grnsaker Construction Limited, Keeve Steyn Incorporated, BKS Incorporated and the Profabil Group, a Portuguese owned multidisciplinary consulting engineering group based in Mozambique. They have a combined turnover of R6 billion.

Financial advisers include Sumitomo Bank of Japan and SA's Absa Bank.
Rural aid fraud: R9.9m repaid

Maputo - Mozambique has repaid $2.3 million (about R9.9 million) in Nordic rural development aid which had been misappropriated by agriculture ministry officials, a local newspaper said yesterday.

"For us, the PESU (emergency seeds and farm tools programme) case is dead and buried," the counsellor for co-operation at the Swedish embassy in Maputo told the Donungo newspaper.

The money had been donated by Norway, but managed by the Swedish International Development Agency.

At least six agriculture ministry officials, including PESU national co-ordinator Tashira Dauda Hussein, have so far been detained over the case - AFP.
CAPE TOWN — US gas company Enron is "days away" from formal contracts to construct a pipeline from Mozambique’s Pande gas fields to a proposed direct iron ore reduction plant in the Northern Province in what would be a $2.3bn project.

Speaking at a World Economic Forum briefing on Friday, Enron senior vice-president Anthony Way said final heads of agreement between Mozambique and SA governments would be formalised within a matter of days.

The project was expected to come on stream some time towards the end of 1998 or early in 1999, with a projected 30-year lifetime, he said.

Way said Enron and the Mozambique state gas and oil company Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos would be jointly responsible for the funding, building and operation of the 800km pipeline.

"The Industrial Development Corporation would be involved with the development of the iron ore reduction plant, although its precise location was still to be decided, he said. Direct involvement in the pipeline in SA and Mozambique, this was unlikely to be problematic, he said."

Mozambique energy ministry special adviser Mario Marques said both countries were already working on a joint economic commission. While the countries' taxation and regulatory policies were unlikely to be identical, they would certainly be compatible, Marques said. Both Mozambique and SA were "keen" to ensure the required regulations were put in place.

The Pande gas fields consist of about 14 wells, with proven reserves of about 2.5-trillion cubic feet and likely reserves of 3-trillion cubic feet, he said.

While the project hinged on a unified taxation policy and regulatory framework for gas pipelines between

Continued from Page 1
Once again government has turned to the private sector to invest in a venture it considers vital for regional growth.

At this week's bilateral conference in Mozambique, Trade & Industry Minister Alec Erwin was quick to point out that the fantasies of creating the Maputo Corridor would remain just that without the help of private enterprise.

"This corridor would be nothing, and would remain a dream, unless the private and public sectors work together," Erwin told the conference.

But where the risks are great so are the rewards so far, some representatives of the private sector are in the thick of bidding for the concession to build a new highway linking Mqubalanga with Maputo. But others are biding their time.

The participants were unanimous in their willingness to "make that dream come true." But tough negotiations are still under way — and only one of the many bilateral agreements could be signed. The others will be finalised "in a few weeks."

By the end of 1997, according to its planners, a continuous toll highway will link Witbank and Maputo. Other projects include the rehabilitation of the railway line, which now operates at 50% of capacity. A joint venture between SA's Spoornet and Mozambique's railway company, Caminho de Ferrode Mocambique, will run the line.

Improved access to Maputo's port is also needed and the docks require much work. A few terminals date back to 1912 and are bereft of any type of illumination for night operations. About 50% of the cranes are non-operational.

So far, a joint venture has been set up between SA's Pentow Marine and the Mozambican public utility Emordraga to dredge the Harbour. Probably the first project will be the fencing of the port, as up to 30% of goods in transit are stolen.

But for Reef-based industrialists, access to the harbour could prove vital in future planning and could provide just reward for the risk. Already Ahusaf has indicated that it will erect an aluminium smelter at Maputo, with the proviso that cheap electricity is made available. The Mozambican authorities have indicated their willingness to build a new dam below Cahora Bassa (Business April 26) to facilitate this.

Last but not least, telephone links should soon be restored to normal. The land-based network is being improved at a cost of R3m and work should be completed by the end of this month. A cellular network for southern Mozambique is also being investigated.

A new "European type" single border post, open 24 hours a day, is to replace the existing crossing. SA's director-general transport Ketsa Gordan says "It should even be possible to drive straight through Morotels will be able to give their passports and documents through the car window, without leaving their cars."

And the cost of all of this? At 1996 prices, the bill is in excess of R1.2bn. Government hopes to pay only 10% of this but attached operations, such as the upgrading of the road from Nelspruit to Phalaborwa and the Northern Province, could see the final tally closer to R2bn.

"This is only the beginning of many initiatives," says Erwin with emphasis. "We are optimistic that the Maputo Corridor will be the first of many successes."
Doubts over Maputo corridor commitment

John Dludlu and David McKay

GOVERNMENT and the Industrial Development Corporation have downplayed claims which question the parastatal's commitment to the multi-billion-rand cross-national Maputo corridor development.

Senior government sources said this week the corporation had been sending "mixed signals" on its participation in the project, driven by the SA and Mozambican governments.
Mozambique raises maize output

Maputo — Mozambique, which has been dependent on foreign food aid for decades because of war and drought, is approaching self-sufficiency in grain production, according to official figures released this week.

The estimate by the UN's World Food Programme for this year's harvest is 1,826,000 tons of grain against the country's total requirements of 1,626,000 tons.

Although that still leaves a deficit of 300,000 tons, it is 50 percent lower than it was three years ago. In 1993 the deficit was about 600,000 tons. Last year and in 1994 it was about 480,000 tons.

Philip Clarke, the programme's Maputo representative, said Mozambican farmers had produced their best grain harvest ever. But he criticised the government's pricing policy. He said that the minimum producer price of 1,500 meticais (about 57c) a kilogram of maize was too high and could leave much of the grain unsold.

Clarke said the programme would have to consider buying maize from neighbouring countries. He said the programme had been offered South African maize at $165 a ton, including all transport and other costs.

At the minimum price set by the Mozambican government, producers should get $135 a ton, but transport and other costs pushed the final price to about $250 a ton.
Race is on to reform Mozambican land bill

By Ross Herbert

Maputo — A quiet race is on in Maputo, the results of which will have a great effect on how much South Africans will have to pay to invest in Mozambique.

The pace in this race is set by a national land commission, which is drafting a more investor-friendly land law to replace Mozambique's Marxist-era rules.

Racing the commission's clock is a gaggle of politicians and well-connected Mozambicans trying to secure land concessions under the existing law. Next month, a revised draft bill will probably go to the council of ministers, who will finalize it before forwarding it to the national Assembly, in October, according to present plans.

Why the hurry? The old system does not require traditional occupants of the land to be compensated or consulted when a land concession is granted. However, compensation and consultation are key protections for the country's peasantry that are being pushed hard by international aid agencies, the World Bank and western donor nations. If peasants can secure concessions, the law changes, they will not have to pay compensation or be well placed to profit by selling concessions to foreign investors.

The issue is rich in irony, with capitalistic institutions advocating for the peasantry and formerly hard-line Marxists trying to avoid legal protections for the poor.

The effort to reform the law is also a remarkable sign of how much political thinking has changed since the days when the Frelimo party created Mozambique as a Marxist-Leninist state.

Under the country's constitution, the state owns all land and will continue to do so under the new law. Instead of granting land titles in the Western sense, the government grants concessions to use land for specific purposes and time periods.

No market officially exists for land or buildings. An informal system developed in cities in which occupants of houses did not hold the house, but only the key to the house.

In the past, the government began permitting occupants renting houses from the state to buy their homes at ridiculous prices. A large three-bedroom house could be bought for the price of a car.

Subsequent sales are priced by the market, often at ten times the price renters paid the government.

The system is widely conceded to be a mess, particularly for business uses of land. If an investor wants to obtain a land concession for agriculture, he must go to the agriculture ministry. If the purpose is mining, permission comes from the mining ministry. Worse, provincial and district governments have power to grant concessions up to certain sizes.

No effective system exists for recompensing concessions granted by different ministries. The central land registry has not been maintained for years. There is no system of title numbers to allow searching for pre-existing land claims.

"The issue of compensation is very real. Who gets what compensation? Do you pay central government or the local people?" said Ruth Newberg, the head of agriculture and food resources at the United States Agency for International Development.

The first draft bill in November said traditional occupants of land must be compensated. In a later draft, the operative word was may, which critics say is meaningless.

Other battles are being fought over communal lands. Should those who gain land concessions pay compensation for communal farm and forest land, or simply for the pieces of ground occupied by houses?

The outcome is far from certain, and donors are gearing up for battles over the proposed law. A memo sent to donors by the World Bank discussed imposing escalating sanctions, including the possibility of a complete cut-off of aid as the bill did not require compensation and renegotiation with existing land occupants.

One influential school of thought in the ruling party holds that Mozambique needs a wealthy class to develop. The only way to create such capitalism is to exploit the conversion to a free-market land system and resell to foreigners.

If cash-poor Mozambicans must pay compensation to traditional occupants, they will be unable to obtain concessions and the inevitable arrival of free markets will mean South Africans and Portuguese eventually buy up all the land.

Cynics in the foreign-aid community maintain that there is no noble motive in such thinking; politicians simply want to profit while they can and oppose rules that will cost them.

Roberto Chavez, the head of the World Bank in Mozambique, has twice suggested a moratorium on land concessions until the new law is final, but the government has flatly refused.

Another key issue is whether foreigners who obtain land concessions will be allowed to resell them to others freely or must return land to the state when a company wants to sell out. Allowing unrestricted market sales weakens the power of politicians, but boosts the amount of revenue they can extract from concession holders can hope to gain.

Despite his criticisms, Chavez and others agree that the way the land issue is being handled reflects a growing maturity in the country's democracy. Public comment is being solicited. On Friday, the government completed a national conference on the land law designed to gather public comment on the proposed law.

The Assembly, once a docile creature of Frelimo, is asserting itself. Before drafting the recently proposed environmental bill, the council of ministers published a "political" statement of the law's goals. The Frelimo-dominated assembly rejected it because it had not been consulted. The assembly was not consulted on the land law, "political" and some fear that it will again reject the bill as a result — Independent Foreign Service..
Money alone won’t restore Maputo port

By Ross Herbert

Maputo — The ports at Richards Bay and Durban face no threat from the Maputo corridor project — if management of the Maputo port is any indication.

True, the roads and railway lines that feed the port fell into disrepair during the country’s long civil war. And the facilities at the port are ancient. Many of the loading cranes date from the 1930s and only about 40 percent are functioning.

However, in the wake of the Maputo corridor investors conference last month, experts say pouring money into new equipment alone will not restore Maputo’s port. They cite examples such as the section of the port’s loading docks that was recently restored with Norwegian aid money.

The state-owned transportation company, CFM, uses the new section to store the rusting hulks of ships left by a bankrupt state shipping company. The reason? Some electrical power needs to be maintained on the ships for running lights. If they were anchored out of the way in Maputo bay, CFM would have to pay for diesel to run generators. But if kept moored to the expensive dock cables can be run from shore and the extra cost is undetectable in the port’s electricity bill.

Many of the ancient cranes also sit. Captain Martin Schmidt-Brenner, a German adviser to the port director, said he was told the many broken cranes could not be moved out of the way and scrapped because they are still listed on the books as assets.

Such examples of mismanagement explain why many look at the investors’ conference as little more than an expensive talkfest. And they are why most Western donor countries have refused to provide additional funds to port projects or CFM. A quiet struggle continues between the government here and donors, who will only open their cheque books again if CFM is fully privatized.

The government resists and in the wake of the conference, the ruling party’s central committee called for continued state ownership of transportation as well as other key industries already earmarked for privatization.

In 1974, Maputo carried 40 percent of Gauteng’s cargo. Today it handles only 5 percent and runs at only 30 percent of its small capacity.

In shipping, speed and reliability are critical. But Maputo is a long way from being able to deliver on the natural geographic advantage it has over Durban and Richards Bay. The port refuses to pay the delay fees that are standard when cargo is delayed at a port.

“About $400 million was pumped into the Beira corridor and there has been any improvement in its performance,” said Roberto Chavez, head of the World Bank in Mozambique. He said the same was true of Nacala port, where railroad links were upgraded to world-class levels but CFM continued to perform poorly.

The other huge obstacle to the corridor is corruption. Customs officials are notorious for delaying cargo. But despite CFM’s performance, the private sector has been willing to invest. P&O, the Australian port-management company, CFM and ownerial and Cruise say they formed a joint venture that manages the Maputo container terminal. P&O has hired a private security firm and plans to fence off its section of the port.

Tomorrow Ross Herbert looks at the experience of South African businessmen investing in Mozambique.
Aid to Mozambique scaled down

MARUTO — Last month's harvest of 934,000 tons of maize, coupled with continuous peace for three years, have led major aid agencies in Mozambique to declare the crisis over and to slash food assistance.

Mozambique's largest food aid donor, the World Food Programme (WFP), has reduced the number of people receiving emergency food aid from 1.2 million in February to 154,000.

Those still receiving aid are mostly peasants affected by recent floods in Maputo and Gaza provinces and refugees who returned from neighboring countries at the end of last year after the planting season.

World Vision, which handles 35% of overall food aid to Mozambique, has also stopped its emergency programme.

"After three years of fairly good rains, durable peace, and a successful seeds and tools distribution, our programme is now focusing on development," says World Vision's food for development programme director Bernie Fortes.

Both agencies are stressing food-for-work projects to reconstruct clinics, schools, roads and rural infrastructure damaged by a vicious 17-year civil war.

Aware that massive free food aid can create dependency and disincentives to agricultural production, WFP has been trying to shift to food-for-work.

"It is hard for people who have been receiving free food for many years in camps for refugees or displaced people, to accept that they now have to work for it," says WFP head of development Gemmo Lodesani. He says that inertia, lack of implementation capacity among WFP's counterparts and natural disasters such as poor rains and floods had slowed food-for-work, but now it should gather momentum.

The combined effects of peace and good rains have resulted in a decrease in food aid assistance since the massive humanitarian operation launched after the peace agreement in October 1992 opened up a divided country ravaged by war and drought.

Calamity

In 1993, WFP assisted 3.9 million Mozambicans with nearly 500,000 tons of food at a cost of $192m.

Last year, WFP assisted a monthly average of 1.5 million people, delivering 120,000 tons of food, at a cost of $28m.

This year, discounting any natural calamity that could occur, only 154,000 people will need free food aid.

Every year, a larger area has been planted and more people have become self-sufficient. In 1992, the maize harvest was a paltry 133,000 tons.

The following year, when peace allowed peasants to farm safely, the harvest rose to 533,000 tons.

Against last year's maize harvest of 753,000 tons, this year's crop topped an unexpected 934,000 tons. It could have been higher, had about 150,000 tons not been lost to floods and locusts. Similar increases are expected in other crops like cassava, the staple food in the north.

The harvest covers Mozambique's overall maize requirements, although the flooded southern provinces will have a deficit of about 200,000 tons. The northern provinces enjoy a surplus of maize and cassava but that is likely to be sold across the border in Tanzania, or to rot because of lack of silos, roads and markets.

Mozambique's weak transport network and costly logistics make it uneconomic to bring maize from the north to the south, so the deficit will be covered by imports either from Zimbabwe or SA.

The phenomenal crop increases of the past three years are largely due to peasants, or the "family sector" as they are known in Mozambique. Using basic tools, like hoes and shovels, little fertilizer and pesticides, peasant farmers have achieved the remarkable feat of covering Mozambique's maize needs.

Besides maize for household consumption, the family sector produces about 60% of the cash crops such as sugar, cotton and coconuts that bring in needed forex.

Of Mozambique's total 40 million hectares of arable land, less than 10% is under cultivation. Of this, about 90% is farmed by peasants, totaling 3 million families, or 80% of the total population of 17 million. — AIA.
Hong Kong bank to join SA bid for Maputo road

THE Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank has joined a consortium of top-level SA construction and banking groups to launch a bid for the R1bn Maputo Corridor toll road, putting themselves against the Via do Sol consortium.

Dubbed Tracc, the consortium consists of building group Basil Read and its French parent Bouygues, Stocks & Stocks, Investec and Thebe’s Melle Investments, along with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. The consortium will pitch for the contract to build a toll road between Witsbank and Maputo on June 21, when the bid is presented to Mozambique’s PM Pascual Mucumbi and other government officials.

The toll road will form the backbone of the Maputo Development Corridor project, which aims to attract private sector investment in improving the port of Maputo and upgrading rail and road links with SA.

Analysts said the formation of such a strong consortium with vast financial resources would place it in direct competition with the Via do Sol consortium, which consists of Group Five, Grinaker Construction, Reeve Steyn, BKS Incorporated and Maputo-based engineering firm Profabri, backed by Asia and Japan’s Sumitomo Bank.

The road is expected to cost about R400m in the first phase, rising to a final investment of between R1bn and R1.5bn. The project will be undertaken on a build, operate and transfer basis.

Transport department roads chief director Nazir Ali said significant private sector investment was needed in order to get the toll road project off the ground, with returns to be generated largely through toll fees.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has become involved, with a number of bank representatives forming part of government’s team of technical advisers on the project.
New Maputo Corridor tests SA diplomacy

Self-serving trade policies are being questioned by Mozambicans, reports Colleen Lowe Momba.

Beneath the gifts that have accompanied the launch of the new South Africa’s highest-profile regional project, the Maputo Corridor poses one of the country’s trickiest tests in regional diplomacy.

Launched for its self-help private-sector approach, the R10 billion project to rehabilitate the road and railway to Maputo plus its port has inadvertently put South Africa in the camp of those pressuring Mozambique to privatise. Requiring never far from the surface fears of a new wave of colonisation.

Failure to recognise that this is the last — not the first — of the major corridor projects in the region that began with voluntary efforts to rehabilitate infrastructure in war-torn Angola and Mozambique has raised the ire of partners in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

"The South Africans are going around drawing attention to the Maputo Corridor as if it is the only area of investment opportunity," said a senior SADC official. "This is contributing to the growing anti-South African feeling that began with complaints about its un-neighbourly trade policies."

Department of Transport officials say the SADC has missed South Africa’s intention over a deal born out of economic self-interest, and closely negotiated with the Mozambicans.

But there has been a flurry of behind-the-scenes fire-fighting most recently at the launch of the SADC’s wraps on the South Africa Peace and Security in Gaborone, to which Transport Minister Mac Maharaj accompanied President Nelson Mandela.

On the face of it, the corridor project should have been the dream of any new-era politician. Its push comes not from the national government, but from provincial authorities in Mpumalanga. It is regional in scope and is the first real effort to get rid of the red tape that is hindering the growth of small-scale manufacturing.

"We looked at what we had the N4, and proximity to the port of Maputo and said: How can we use these?"

Before the Mozambiquan National Resistance Movement (Renamo) captured the access routes to the port, 40% of trade from the area now in Gauteng and Mpumalanga passed through Maputo. Now that figure is down to 5%.

Mpmamphela. Premier Matthews Phosa has the enthusiastic backing of Maharaj of the ANC's must-able ministers who found himself consigned to the seemingly dull world of transport.

In recent time South African and Mozambican officials pulled together a plan that involves a R600 million 66-km road from Witbank to Maputo and R42 million renovation of the Mozambican leg of the railway route, and a R110 million rehabilitation of the port.

Except for the R200 million dredging of Maputo port, which will be financed by donors and 10% state financing for the toll road, the remainder of the funds are expected to come from private-sector sources.

This is in stark contrast to the Beira and Nacala rehabilitation projects which were funded almost entirely by donors, to the detriment of the political drive to find alternatives to South African ports. These have continued to operate below capacity largely due to monopoly problems, and have not been accompanied by related developmental projects.

The Maputo Corridor project on the other hand is accompanied by a range of agricultural, mining and industrial projects.

One unavoidable problem is the corridor is about three times longer to South Africa than it is in Mozambique. To some extent, this will be the case that the 60% of the Mozambican government and 40% of the South African.

A Mozambican government official says the project was conceived with the idea of creating a corridor between South Africa and Mozambique that would be used by South Africa to tap into the Mozambican market.

"I want an education that prepares me for the job I've got to do. Look, I'll still need books, but what I really need is an education that takes me places. Out of the classroom and into the workroom."

"Wanna make it out there?"

START HERE!

"I want an education that prepares me for the job I've got to do. Look, I'll still need books, but what I really need is an education that takes me places. Out of the classroom and into the workroom."
Mozambique, SA to sign corridor accords

Stephen Laufer

MOZAMBIQUE and SA would sign four agreements governing the Maputo-Mpumalanga corridor project late next week, the transport ministry in Pretoria said yesterday.

Minister Mac Maharaj and his Mozambican counterpart Paulo Muxanga would sign an umbrella agreement between the two governments and three subsidiary contracts covering the details of a range of corridor-related issues on July 26. The agreements are the strongest indications to date that Mozambican state and private sector reservations about the project, apparently rooted in a fear of SA economic and political domination, have been overcome.

A protocol on the planned toll road between Witbank and Maputo, for which the tender is due to be finalised within weeks, is among the agreements to be signed.

Three separate consortia, including major SA construction and engineering companies and local and foreign banks are understood to have bid on the project, expected to involve an investment exceeding R1.6bn over the next 30 years.

The second agreement is an undertaking by both governments covering the joint ventures between Transnet and Mozambican national railway CFM to upgrade rail facilities between the Rossano Garcia border post and Maputo, and to improve harbour facilities and management there.

The final agreement will create a development company to facilitate investment in projects along the corridor, including major capital investment projects. The corridor company, expected to run for two years, will also lobby the national and provincial governments on behalf of investors, ensuring timely permits and correct application of support mechanisms.
Maputo corridor bid bolstered

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — Two black consortia in Mpumalanga had joined forces with Via do Sol in its bid for the R1bn Maputo development corridor project, Via do Sol chairman Alan Dawson said this week.

The consortia, Vulindlela and Vula-Kuwa Africa, had joined as equity parties alongside Via do Sol’s other consortium members, Grimaker Construction, Group Five, Keeve Steyn, BRS and Profrabri, a Maputo-based consulting engineering firm.

Dawson said the addition of two Mpumalanga groupings to the consortium was “most significant” given the development aspect emphasised by the two national governments.

He announced the additions to Via do Sol at a briefing to the Mpumalanga government in Nelspruit this week.

Three other black firms, Arch Consulting, Panting Semenya Associates and Goba Moahloli & Associates, had joined forces with Via do Sol which since last month had been bolstered by the participation of Emoci, the Mozambiquan subsidiary of Portuguese construction company, Mota, and toll road operator BRISA Auto-Estradas de Portugal.

Tenders for the corridor project were being considered by the SA and Mozambiquan transport departments.
ARTERIAL ACCORD

Launched in April amid political fanfare in Mozambique’s capital, the Maputo Corridor project is starting to move beyond the conceptual stage.

Three concurrent developments show that the venture, initially met with cynicism in some business circles, must now be taken seriously.

Tenders for the R700m toll road between Witbank and Maputo are being evaluated by the Department of Transport. Three tenders have been submitted. These are for building and operating the road during a concessionary 50-year period, after which it will revert to government in terms of the so-called “build, operate, transfer” concept.

A decision on the contract is expected soon, says SA national project manager Karen Pearce.

Formal agreement on the Maputo Corridor Company is due to be signed on July 27. The company is a 51% privately owned joint venture with government agencies in both countries. Its role will be to rehabilitate and manage the Maputo port and the rail line between Komati and Maputo.

“The holding company will control three operating companies which will upgrade and operate the rail links between Maputo and SA, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Mozambique’s transport authority CFM will get a 30% share and Transnet will share the balance with other agencies,” says Pearce.

Spoornet and Porthet — in the Transnet stable — will be interested parties.

Essential infrastructural upgrading costing about US$180m has already been identified for Maputo harbour and the cost of the rail upgrading is estimated at $30m. The harbour will require dredging — to allow Panamax ships of up to 60 000 t onto the port.

Upgrading of the commercial quay, stricter security measures to protect against pilfering and the rehabilitation of the fishing port will also be needed, along with dredgers, tugs, cranes and other port equipment.

Development Bank of Southern Africa’s Dave Arkwright says “government wants to minimise its financial stake in the project — and joint ventures with the private sector are the best way to achieve this.” He says the World Bank has offered guarantees to back govern-
Mozambique drowning in the weapons of decades of war

Glut of guns makes the country a magnet for criminals from SA who trade a few beers for AK-47s

BY NASTAL DONALDO

Military equipment that has amassed over three decades of war in Mozambique—from the era of the revolution to the 17 years of civil strife—has left the army with the dilemma that it cannot account for the whereabouts and exact number of these weapons.

Lazarro Mathe, director of the Mozambique defense force (FADM) equipment unit, says “We have more weapons of war than military personnel.

“The only problem is that we don’t know how many or where most of these weapons are,” he added.

Worst of all, says Mathe, if a war were to erupt in Mozambique today, the national army did not stand a chance to win as it was ill-equipped and in total disarray.

Following the Rome Peace Accord, UN peacekeepers (UNamoz) were initially given the task of establishing three regional warehouses to store weapons from Frelimo and the Renamo rebel movement. But Unamoz completed their tour of duty before this could be effected.

“Even those arms that had been identified for destruction were not accounted for,” says Mathe.

He admits there are brand-new Russian-built MiG-17, MiG-19, MiG-21 fighter planes and BM21s in various air bases. But there are no pilots to fly them nor are there any ground crew to maintain and service them.

Today demobilized pilots of the air force and navy, as well as technicians, are either self-employed or drafted into positions which have nothing to do with what they were trained for.

There are missiles, anti-aircraft guns, armoured vehicles, heavy ground-to-ground armours and other military equipment without proper maintenance or storage.

And there are AK-47 assault rifles which make Mozambique a haven for criminals from neighbouring South Africa and Zimbabwe. A few cans of beer can easily buy them an AK47.

Damaged equipment cannot be repaired as there are no spare parts available.

And nobody seems to know whether the FADM will continue their co-operation with the foreign countries which supplied the equipment, or whether they will eventually turn to the West.

Though Mathe is cognizant that the situation will change for the better once a national defence policy is instituted, nobody shares his view.

Room to draft former pilots and technicians back into the national army failed because of rows over the national recruitment law now under discussion – Sapa-DPA
Liberalisation paves the way for fierce competition

Private telecom groups find place in Tanzania

By Joe Khamisi

Nairobi — Tanzania's telecommunications sector has been invaded by privateers in the wake of liberalisation that has jolted the slumbering state-run Tanzania Telecommunication Company (TTCL) into an early wake-up call.

For decades TTCL was the sole provider of telephones and other telecommunications services in Tanzania, but government protection and lack of development resources led to poor performance.

Only a small percentage of the country's estimated population of 30 million has access to telephones. Millions of people who can afford the services are on the waiting list, sometimes for as long as 10 years.

Even where services are available, static lines and frequent breakdowns make contact a nightmare.

In the past year, several private companies have emerged in competition with TTCL. A local firm, ACG, has already installed 400 public wireless card telephone booths in the capital Dar es Salaam, compared with TTCL's 37.

Catholic Mathews, the director of ACG, says the company plans to extend its services to all major towns across the country.

Another company, Tri Telecommunications Tanzania, started with cellular phones and has now established a walkie-talkie telephone system in the capital. It also plans to expand its services.

Its officials say that eventually a connection will be established with a reputable global system to enable cellular phone users to use their equipment anywhere in the world.

Mobitel, another company with local interests, has also entered the cellular phone business and TTCL, fearing a loss of business to privateers, has expansion plans of its own.

The state-run company plans to install a wireless telephone system known as a wireless local loop. When operational, customers will be able to use modern wireless telephone services.

"We shall start with Dar es Salaam and Arusha," a TTCL spokesman was quoted as saying recently. "We intend to replace all coin-boxes with card phones."

The telecommunications competition has led to a price war, to the delight of consumers.

The cost of cellular phone services has dipped by as much as 20 percent since the liberalisation about two years ago.

In the meantime, recent reports from Washington say Tanzania has been named as one country that could benefit from a scheme to equip Africa with modern telecommunications technology.

Communications Daily, a US trade publication, said recently that Africom, an African-American owned company, had signed a contract with Lockheed Martin Overseas to build a satellite intended to serve the hub of sub-Saharan African satellite telephone systems.

The satellite would be licensed to Ghana, but Tanzania was chosen as a backup in case the West African country opted out of the arrangement.

The satellite system is expected to be operational by 1999 — Independent Foreign Service
Mozambique's national airline faces operating crisis

By Jorge Deque [2/8]

Maputo — The Mozambican national airline, LAM, which will be restructured as part of the country's economic reform plan, is facing a crisis.

Not only is it beleaguered by falling demand, a breakdown of its aircraft and maladministration, but it also faces stiff competition from South Africa.

The airline has carried out no financial planning since its formation in 1980 after the demise of the Portuguese airline Delta. According to sources, that enabled the state to drain capital as profit.

The crisis reached a head in 1992, when domestic flights ceased to be the main mode of transport after the civil war ended and roads and other forms of transportation were opened up.

The number of passengers dropped to 134,000 a year, from 200,000, and turnover fell 33 percent. By last year, the airline had an accumulated deficit of $6 million and a debt of about $15 million.

The situation deteriorated when a lease agreement for three aircraft hired from BRASIL of Ireland expired. The loss of the aircraft has prevented the airline from keeping up its commercial operations.

LAM has faced constant equipment breakdowns because of old age, causing flight cancellations and claims that it may not be safe.

Pereira Rodrigues, who has been with LAM and its predecessor for 39 years, says it is one of the oldest airlines in the region. He says allegations that it is not safe are no more than attempts by competitors to give it a bad name.

The liberation of South Africa has contributed to the problems because airlines from Europe, Asia and the US have re-established direct links with Johannesburg.

The airline was forced to close its offices in Italy, Germany, Denmark, France and Zimbabwe.

It has cut its staff to 1,335 from a peak of 2,000 in the 1980s and plans to cut it to 900 by next year.

Nevertheless, Jose Viegas, the managing director, thinks the economic reform plan will put the airline back on its feet, particularly if the management is improved.

He says the problems of the reduced fleet, now down to two Boeings and 14 light airplanes, will be solved by chartering.

But there is still debate on LAM's status under the reform programme. Though the government has not yet decided what to do, the World Bank and the IMF have insisted on its privatisation. The technical unit of the Restructuring of Enterprises, a government agency, also wants privatisation, but senior government officials want LAM to continue as a national airline — Independent Foreign Service/Africa Information Africa
Mozambique: Where beer can buy an AK-47

MAPUTO - Military equipment amassed over three decades of war in Mozambique - from the era of the revolution to the 17 years of civil strife - has left the army with the dilemma that it cannot account for the whereabouts and exact number of these military weapons.

Lazaro Mathe, director of the Mozambique Defence Force (FADM) equipment unit, says: "We have more weapons of war than military personnel. The only problem is that we don't know how many, or where most of these weapons are."

Worst of all, says Mr Mathe, if a war were to erupt in Mozambique today, the national army did not stand a chance, as it was ill equipped and in total disarray.

Following the Rome Peace Accord, UN peacekeepers (Unomoz) were initially given the task of establishing three regional warehouses to store weapons from Frelimo and the Renamo rebel movement.

But Unomoz completed their tour of duty before this could be effected. "Even these arms that had been identified for destruction were not accounted for," says Mr Mathe.

He admits there are brand-new Russian-built Mig 17, Mig 19, Mig 21 fighter aircraft and BM 21's in various air bases. But there are no pilots to fly them, nor are there any ground crew to maintain them.

Today demobilised pilots of the air force and navy as well as technicians are either self-employed or drafted into positions which have nothing to do with what they were trained for.

There are also missiles, anti-aircraft guns, armoured vehicles, heavy ground-to-ground armoured and other military equipment but without proper maintenance or storage.

And there are AK-47 assault rifles - which makes Mozambique a haven for criminal elements from South Africa and Zimbabwe. A few cans of beer can buy one AK-47.

Damaged equipment cannot be repaired as there are no spare parts available due to the origin of the equipment. And nobody seems to know whether the FADM will continue its co-operation with these foreign countries who supplied the equipment or whether it will eventually turn to Western countries for equipment.

Though Mr Mathe is convinced that the situation will change for the better once a national defence policy is instituted, not everybody shares his view.

Efforts by the military authorities to draft former pilots and technicians back into the national defence force failed because certain army chiefs and government authorities appear to be at loggerheads over the national recruitment law now under discussion.

While the country's military weapons are disintegrating or finding their way into the hands of criminals, the Mozambican government has entered into an agreement with the Zimbabwean government to train the mixed Renamo and Frelimo armies as part of the integration process.

Some Mozambican military instructors have since gone through their paces in Zimbabwe's eastern highlands Nyanga camp on the border with Mozambique. - Sapa-DPA
**Blazing a Trail to the East**

With investment projects valued at almost R200bn already identified by the SA and Mozambican governments, this week’s “milestone” signing of a broad framework accord — and three ancillary agreements — will step up the pace of the Maputo Corridor project (Business July 19).

The entry of the giant Sumitomo Bank, together with Absa, Gunmaker Construction, Group Five and two major Portuguese construction companies as members of the Consortium Via do Sol — one of three tender bidders for the toll road contract — indicates interest on the part of the big guns.

Sumitomo, one of the largest financial institutions in the world, is also a global leader in the so-called “build, operate, transfer” concept, popular in developing Asian economies. It involves the private sector obtaining a government licence to invest in and manage a project for a specified period, after which ownership reverts back to government. Sumitomo is acting as financial adviser in the Via do Sol tender bid.

Apart from high-level presidential support at the April launch, Mpumalanga premier Matthews Phosa recently visited Botswana and Swaziland, drumming up support. “The process started to gain momentum with the signing of agreements between the provinces of Maputo and Gaza in Mozambique and Mpumalanga, aimed at regional co-operation,” he says.

An obvious selling point is transport cost savings by using Maputo rather than Durban. “Once the corridor is up and running, we will see substantial savings on stainless steel export costs,” says Columbus Stainless CE Fred Boshoff.

And adds Sasol spokesman Alfonso Niemand: “The development provides Sasol with an opportunity to increase the cost-effectiveness of transporting our export products.”

Transport Minister Mac Maharaj says Maputo is only one of seven transport corridors in the SADC Development Community (SADC) region, “each with its own catchment area of economic potential being linked to a port for export/import.” Others, such as the Beira and Malaw/Nacala corridors, should also come in for international attention in the near future.

“The next step,” he adds, “together with our SADC partners, is to formulate a coherent strategy to develop these regional corridors. Mozambique and SA are willing to share the experience gained in the Maputo Corridor with the SADC.”

Extensions of the corridor include linking up through Rustenburg and Botswana, with Walvis Bay in Namibia via the planned Trans-Kalahari highway. And southern Zimbabwe also fits into the picture, through a link-up through the Tzaneen/Northern Province sub corridor route. An improved transport link between Maputo and Beira, along the Mozambican coastline, should also stimulate other developments.

The agreements signed this week by Maharaj and Mozambican counterpart Paulo Maxanga include a protocol on the operating framework of the toll road.

“The way will be opened for the initial phases of the project. Rail, road and port upgrades which will lay the foundations for an integrated regional infrastructure network crucial to the realisation of the opportunities for economic growth and development which exist in the area,” says Department of Transport spokesman Karen Pearce.

Department of Trade & Industry ministerial adviser Paul Jourdan and Department of Transport director-general Ketso Jordaan have just returned from the UK and the US after studying new trends in public-private joint venture partnerships. So, with this kind of top-level focus, private-sector investors can start planning to get in on the action.

Says Maharaj: “Both governments are confident that the take-off point has now been reached for the implementation of the many private-sector investments and public-private partnerships which together will raise the enormous potential of the corridor and subcorridor areas.” Project details recently released by Maharaj and Maxanga include:

- Essential transport infrastructure projects — which have entered various stages of tendering — such as the US$180m toll road (rehabilitating 380 km of existing road between Wuthank and Maputo and building about 50 km of new road in Mozambique), $170m on port upgrading and $20m on upgrading the 90 km rail link between Maputo and Ressano Garcia on the SA border.

- Upgrading the telecommunications system, by way of a digital microwave system, to increase trunk capacity between SA and Mozambique.

- Additional plans to establish a cellular network are also under consideration, and

- Private-sector projects such as the $700m Fande gas pipeline project, $250m for surveying the development potential of building material resources in Maputo province, the $300m Red River bimetal/ magnetite and vanadium project near Tzaneen, Iscor’s $300m heavy minerals project adjoining Red River, estimated investments of $1,43bn on the development of petro-chemical and stainless steel clusters at Secunda and Middelburg, $37m on agro-industrial projects in Mpumalanga, as well as investment opportunities in the Mozambican fishing, forestry and tourism sectors.

Other investment projects already disclosed include Alusaf’s $1bn Maputo-based aluminium plant, a new multibillion US dollar hydro-electric dam in the lower Zambezi river, a $5bn fertiliser plant (also in Maputo), Gencor’s plans to develop heavy mineral sand deposits on the lower Mozambican coastline, Sappi’s proposed forestry project south of Maputo, a costly, US-funded ecotourism project on the coast south of Maputo and proposals to link SA’s Kruger National Park with a huge transnational park in Mozambique.
Mozambican airline headed for bumpy landing

MOZAMBIQUE'S national airline (LAM), which is to be restructured as part of the country's economic reform programme, is facing a crisis. Not only is it bedevilled by a drop in demand and maladministration but it is also facing stiff competition from neighbouring South Africa.

Since its formation in 1980, following the demise of the Portuguese airline TAP, no financial planning of LAM has been carried out. This, according to sources, enabled the state to drain out capital as profits.

The crisis reached a head in 1992 when domestic flights ceased to be the main mode of transport following the end of the civil war and the opening up of roads and other means of transport.

The number of passengers dropped to 134 000 a year from 200 000 and turnover fell by 33% by 1995. LAM had an accumulated deficit of $6.5 million as well as a debt of about $13 million. This situation worsened when a lease agreement expired for three aeroplanes hired from Ireland.

The loss of the aircraft has stopped the airline from keeping up its commercial operations. LAM has been facing constant breakdowns of equipment due to old age, causing cancellations of flights, and claims that the airline may not be safe.

But Perreira Manuel Rodrigues, who has been with the airline and its predecessor for 36 years, says LAM is one of the safest in the region.

"On no occasion have the standards of the manufacturer of the equipment not been observed rigorously," he says. "I feel safer in an LAM aeroplane than in one of any other airline."

For Rodrigues, allegations that LAM is not safe are no more than attempts by competitors to give the airline a bad name.

The liberation of South Africa has also contributed to the problems as airlines from Europe, Asia and America have re-established direct links with Johannesburg. LAM was forced to close its offices in Rome, Berlin, Copenhagen, Paris and Harare. It also reduced its labour force from a peak of 2 000 in the 1980s to 1 335 at the moment. By 1997, there will be about 900 staff.

Despite the gloomy picture, managing director Jose Viegas believes the present economic reform programme will see the airline flying high again, particularly if management is improved. He says the problem of the reduced fleet — now down to two Boeings and 14 light aeroplanes — will be solved by chartering.

But there is still debate on the status of LAM under the reform programme.

Although the state has not yet decided what to do, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have insisted on its privatisation.

The technical unit of the Restructuring of Enterprises, a government agency, also favours privatisation but is facing opposition from senior government officials who want LAM to continue as a national airline.

AIA
Trading beers for AK47s

MAPUTO – Military equipment amassed over three decades of war in Mozambique has left the army with the dilemma that it cannot account for the whereabouts and exact number of these military weapons. If you want it, you can buy an AK-47 on the black market for a few cans of beer.

Lazzaro Mathe, director of the Mozambique defence force equipment unit, says “We have more weapons of war than military personnel. The only problem is that we don’t know how many or where most of these weapons are”.

Worst of all, says Mathe, if a war was to erupt in Mozambique today, the national army would not stand a chance to win as it was ill-equipped and in total disarray.

Following the Rome Peace Accord, UN peacekeepers were initially given the task of establishing three regional warehouses to store weapons from Frelimo and the Renamo rebel movement. But the peacekeepers completed their tour of duty before this could be effected.

“Even those arms that had been identified for destruction were not accounted for,” says Mathe.

Fighter planes

He admits there are brand-new Romanian-built MIG-17, MIG-19, MIG-21 fighter planes and BM-21’s in various arm bases. But there are no pilots to fly them nor are there any ground crew to maintain and service them.

Today demobilised pilots of the air force and navy as well as technicians are either self-employed or drafted into positions which have nothing to do with what they were trained for.

There are also missiles, anti-aircraft guns, armoured vehicles, heavy ground-to-ground armoury and other military equipment but without proper maintenance or storage.

And there are AK-47 assault rifles which make Mozambique a haven for criminal elements from neighbouring South Africa and Zimbabwe. A few cans of beer can easily buy them one AK-47.

Damaged equipment cannot be repaired as there are no spare parts available due to the origin of the equipment.

And nobody seems to know whether the Mozambican armed forces will continue their cooperation with those foreign countries who supplied the equipment or whether they will eventually turn to Western countries for equipment. Though Mathe is convinced that the situation will change once a national defence policy is instituted, not everybody shares his view.

Recent efforts by the military authorities to draft former pilots and technicians back into the national army failed because certain army chiefs and government authorities appear to be at loggerheads over the national recruitment law now under discussion.

While the country’s military weapons are disintegrating or finding their way into the hands of criminals, the Mozambican government has entered into an agreement with the Zimbabwean government to train the mixed Renamo and Frelimo armies as part of the integration process. Sapu-DPA.
Maputo terminal in full swing

MBABANE — After four years of lying idle, the Maputo Sugar Terminal is now in full swing following an overhaul and modernisation by the Swaziland Sugar Association and the Zimbabwe Sugar Association.

Since June 10 1995, the two associations have exported 283,000 tons to the European Union.

Mozambique and Zambia also send small consignments through the terminal.

In 1992, Swaziland and Zimbabwe clinched an eight-year lease to operate the terminal as a joint venture.

Storage capacity is 140,000 tons, divided among three sheds, one of 60,000 tons and two of 40,000 tons each. This year, the two countries are expected to export 400,000 tons, rising to 500,000 tons next year.

Swan, a company owned jointly by the two associations, commissioned Techev to refurbish the terminal. Exports through Maputo were stopped in 1991 because of the high prevalence of theft at the port, with Swaziland alone losing about 16,000 tons that year.

The two countries were forced to switch to Durban, 600km further.
Economic corridor to Maputo may be extended

The planned economic development corridor from Maputo to Mpuamalanga could be extended beyond Gauteng to Rustenburg in Northwest Province by 1999, Transport director-general Kasamo Gordhan said on Friday.

Gordhan was in Maputo with Transport Minister Mac Maharaj, his Trade and Industry colleague Alec Erwin, and Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal, who signed three accords on the corridor and one establishing a joint water commission.

Plans for the Maputo-Mpuamalanga corridor now aim to extend the Johannesurg-Witbank highway to the Mozambique capital as a toll road, the improvement of harbour facilities, and the upgrading of the rail link from the Mozambique border post to the port.

A feasibility study showed that an extension of the corridor, including the existing toll road between Pretoria West and Pelindaba costing between R700m and R800m, would be viable, opening access for industry and agriculture to Maputo harbour, Gordhan said.

An extension, further westward to Gabarone, of the Pelindaba-Rustenburg highway did not appear to make financial sense yet, particularly as the Botswana capital was to be linked to the port of Walvis Bay via a new road by 1997.

Concerned about becoming economically isolated, the Botswana government is apparently pushing for inclusion in the corridor concept.

The transport department had received three formal tenders for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Witbank-Maputo toll highway, which will allow speeds of 120km/h.

Maharaj said he expected to award the contract in August, just a year after the corridor idea had first been mooted in earnest.

He would like construction to begin "the day after we sign the agreements." The road contract has been valued at R1.5bn over 30 years at current rates.
Maputo Corridor ‘will bring the vision of the RDP to life’

Mphumalanga premier says province must convey message of optimism and ability to deliver to outside world, then broad benefits will follow

By Clyde Johnson
Nelspruit

Mphumalanga had been first to initiate the Maputo Corridor, is first with the casino application process and is also first in economic growth, according to Premier Mathews Phosa.

Speaking at a joint Nafococ, Sukekamer and Chamber of Commerce meeting last week, he said this was enough for businesses in the province to convey a message of trust and optimism to the outside world.

“We now need to concentrate on translating these successes into delivery,” he told the well-attended meeting.

However, in order to be successful in their delivery efforts, the different cultures in the province needed to be understood, Phosa said.

“We should not attempt to change individuals to suit the companies they serve, but should rather capitalise on our many cultures which, if combined, can contribute tremendously to our success story.”

There was no doubt in his mind that the Maputo Corridor initiative would bring the RDP to life.

The shorter and more cost-effective movement of goods along the network of the corridor would ensure a mobile RDP, which, in turn, would result in benefits for construction, tourism, and agriculture, as well as the technical, management and training industries, he said.

Phosa added that Nelspruit, as the capital of Mphumalanga, had enormous opportunities which could benefit the whole province.

Business had boomed since 1994, but it was important that the business sector in the province recognised the government’s efforts to realise these opportunities.

“The business sector in Mphumalanga must unite in such a way that the government can communicate with them under one umbrella.”

The Government and business should also form a strong, united front against crime, which had become a national disease, he said.

An initiative allowing the government and business sector to join forces and create watch schemes to ensure that the province became investor-friendly would be launched in Witbank soon.

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