

Marius Barnard praises Maputo

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18/1/83

The Star's
Africa News Service

Progressive Federal Party member of Parliament Dr Marius Barnard has become the first South African MP to visit Mozambique since independence.

Dr Barnard, who left Maputo yesterday after a three-day visit, was invited by the Maputo Central Hospital in his capacity as a leading heart specialist.

Before he left he told local journalists he would be prepared to operate in Mozambique, according to the official news agency AIM.

Dr Barnard found Mozambique "very different from what I expected.

"I am most pleased with what the medical profession has achieved in bringing health to the people.

"If we can carry on with our association I think that cardiac surgery in its full sense will come to Mozambique, certainly within 10 years," Dr Barnard said before leaving.

APARTHEID

According to AIM, Dr Barnard "reluctantly" admitted there were inequalities between black and white in South African health services.

His criticisms of apartheid were well known, Dr Barnard told AIM. He referred journalists to his speeches in the record of Parliamentary debates.

Dr Barnard was asked if he had any comment to make on the Mozambique Resistance Movement allegedly backed by the South African Government.

He replied: "I would like to go deeper before making a statement."

He seemed surprised when told the movement had burned down health centres and kidnapped health workers.

Asked what the PFP was doing about what a local journalist described as "South Africa's aggression against neighbouring states", Dr Barnard replied: "We ask questions in Parliament."