

Frelimo patrol provides helping hand to stranded SA truck driver

Business Day 26-7-88

SUSAN RUSSELL

JOHANNESBURG truck driver Lance Robinson was given shelter, food, cigarettes and beer for two nights by a Frelimo patrol after his truck stuck in soft sand along the Komatipoort-Maputo road last week.

Robinson was on business for export company Quintex International.

His employer, Monty Krazin, said the patrol found Robinson after the convoy in which he was travelling left him and his truck in an area known to be dangerous because of rebel activity.

Krazin said members of the convoy helped Robinson the first time his truck bogged down but were too nervous to do so the second time because it was close to dusk.

"He is a jogger, and after the convoy left him he started jogging towards Maputo about 70km away.

"He ran into a military patrol. They

wanted to know what he was doing there and then invited him to spend the night with them.

"They fed him well," Krazin said, "and gave him beer, Coke and cigarettes,

Krazin said the next morning when Robinson said he wanted to fetch his truck members of the patrol told him he had to go with them to their headquarters at Moambo.

"There they questioned him and again

invited him to spend the night. He was given a room and bed with sheets and good food."

Krazin said the next morning the patrol took Robinson by four-wheel-drive vehicle to his truck and helped him retrieve it from the soft sand.

Afterwards the patrol escorted Robinson to Maputo.

Krazin said at all times Frelimo treated Robinson well.

"We are very grateful to Frelimo for

assisting and escorting him to Maputo," Krazin said.

He also praised the hospitality given to Robinson, adding that according to SA norms Coke and beer might not seem like much but that to "those guys in the bush they are a real treat".

Krazin said employing a commercial breakdown service to retrieve the truck would have been very expensive.

Robinson was still on business in Mozambique yesterday but was expected back today.