

SOUTH AFRICA MOZAMBIQUE : ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

South Africa has embarked on several important projects with Mozambique. These projects, which are worth millions of rands, can be divided into two distinct categories:

- 1) those entered into before, and
- 2) those entered into after the signing of the Nkomati Accord.

1. Before Nkomati, SA was engaged in the following projects in Mozambique: the repair of pumping equipment, steam generators at an electric power station and fishing vessels; the provision of precast housing, railroad material and sugar refinery equipment as well as the building of storage and cooling facilities for citrus in Maputo harbour.

2. Since the signing of the Nkomati Accord, South Africa has been involved in projects to upgrade the harbour of Maputo; to repair locomotives and upgrade signal equipment of the Mozambican National Railways; to repair more fishing vessels; to repair equipment at electric power stations and to upgrade sugar refineries.

An Eastern Transvaal Coordination Committee was brought into existence to help farmers across the border with planting, ploughing and fertilisation, to promote trade and tourism. The South African Tourism Board and the Government have been seeking ways to help Mozambican tourism and has undertaken several studies in which South African participation would be large.

Apart from this, Mozambique has been provided with credit facilities worth millions of rands with the aim of promoting trade between the two countries. The South African and Mozambican authorities are also looking at the possibility of the upgrading of the corridor between Maputo and Komatipoort. This would entail the upgrading of the rail and road systems and the infrastructure in the area between Maputo and the South African border.

South Africa also provides food and other assistance to thousands of homeless Mozambicans who almost daily cross its borders. The High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations sent officials to South Africa in March last year to gauge the extent and seriousness of the problem. The High Commissioner was provided with details of the provision of free medical aid and hospitalization, and of a vaccination programme against malaria and other diseases for thousands of children; and details of a programme for the distribution of thousands of rands worth of maize,

potatoes, milk powder and other foodstuffs. Afterwards the UN Mission acknowledged that it had gained the impression of a well organised sanctuary where traditional as well as modern structures were effectively being used to handle the problem.

Further economic and technical cooperation with Mozambique.

Tugboat for use in Maputu Harhour:

In 1986 the tugboat "Willem Hekroot" was donated to Mozambique for use in Maputu Harbour. In addition the South African Transport Services provided an interim crew, maintenance and instituted a training programme for training local citizens to maintain and operate the vessel.

Future Prospects

Amongst others, SA is exploring the possibility of cooperating with Mozambique regarding the following projects:

1. Maputu Port

The master plan for the development of the port, phase II and III, has been accepted by Mozambique. Negotiations for implementation are underway.

2. Ressano Garcia/Maputo Road:

This project has already been evaluated and accepted by Mozambique.

3. Cahora Bassa Powerlines project

The proposals have been accepted by Portugal, Mozambique and South Africa, and the contract is now being negotiated with the contractor.

Funds for all the projects are being sought by Mozambique.