

South African commentary on expanding economic ties with Mozambique (Text) The interaction between South Africa and Mozambique is growing steadily. Last week the Director of Tourism in Mozambique, Mr Zacarias Sumbana, was a guest at an international tourism exhibition in South Africa. He was impressed by the exhibition, and said that it was very probably that Mozambique would take part in future trade and other fairs in South Africa. Mr Sumbana also said that tourism in southern Africa was very important because it could help create stability and promote understanding and good relations in the subcontinent.

Since the revival of the Nkomati Accord last year, both South Africa and Mozambique have been doing everything possible to promote co-operation. South African businessmen have moved into Mozambique to reopen a brewery and a match factory, and to investigate large forestry projects. Mozambique has sent delegations to South Africa to study labour training projects. South Africa has renewed her labour agreement with Mozambique and is recruiting more migrant Mozambican workers. Millions of rands have been spent on the upgrading of the port of Maputo, so that greater use can be made of its facilities by South African exporters, thus earning much needed foreign exchange for Mozambique.

Another important development is in the area of tourism. After independence, Mozambique's flourishing tourist trade died abruptly because of the political instability. As a result, Mozambique lost foreign exchange and international goodwill. Now Pretoria and Maputo are co-operating to promote tourism to Mozambique. Tourism to secure islands along the Mozambican coast such as Inhaca and Bazaruto has started off again, and tourist trips to other coastal resorts such as Inhambane are being considered. The co-operation between South Africa and Mozambique is an outstanding example of how political differences can be overcome in the interests of development and progress for southern Africa. (Johannesburg in English for abroad 1500 gmt 1 May 89)