

Renewing ties with MOZAMBIQUE

In the heart of Maputo is a memorial garden commemorating the epic achievement of pioneer Louis Trichardt who reached what was then Delagoa Bay by ox-wagon in 1838, only to die of malaria, together with 20 other members of his party. After Independence, Mozambique continued to honour this memorial and today, South Africa continues to honour Mozambique by providing the new R10 million South African Trade Mission offices in Maputo

Pictures: Robert Marneweck

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Population: 13 310 000 (1983 estimate)
Life expectancy: 51 years
Infant mortality: 10,5%
Literacy: 33%
Average population growth: 4,3%
Birth and death rates: 4,9%, 1,6%
Religion: 15% Christian (1,5% Roman Catholics)
13% Muslim
60% traditional
Economically active population: agriculture 66% industry 18%
Major trading partners: South Africa (15%)
USA (14%)
Portugal (10%)
German Democratic Republic (9%)
(Over 120 000 citizens work in the Republic of South Africa)
Independence Day: 25th June, 1975

The Louis Trichardt Memorial Garden in Maputo, erected near the site of the house where he died, is paved with black and white mosaic tiles leading down to a pool with a stone panel behind it depicting the saga of the 9-month trek to Maputo from the Northern Transvaal

Diplomatic ties between Mozambique and South Africa go back more than 130 years, to the days when the Transvaal was known as the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek, and the first consular representation was established between the two countries in 1852. This lasted until 1881 when it was rudely interrupted by the British annexation of the Transvaal. Reinstated in 1884, it was again interrupted in 1889 when the Anglo-Boer War broke out. So, off and on, ties existed long before the Union of South Africa. When Mozambique finally achieved independence from Portugal in 1975, these ties lapsed until the signing of the

remarkable Nkomati Accord — aimed at achieving mutual co-operation once again. In spite of estrangement and disagreements, it would seem that friendship has proved more important after all, and now there is a keen sense of appreciation and eager anticipation of the future.

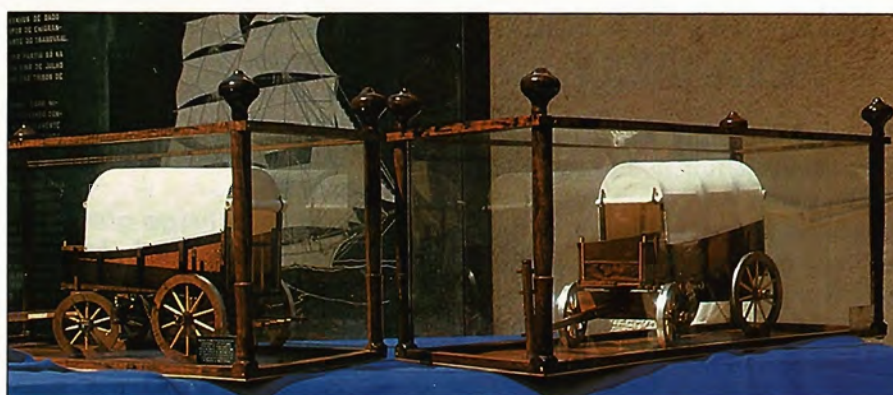
Is it going to be possible to have those halcyon days back again when tourists could holiday in both countries, when citizens of both countries could buy and sell property in each other's territory, and when flourishing trade kept the population profitably employed and prosperous? Most important of all, can friendship and trust supersede clashing ideologies and mistrust?

Believe it or not, miracles do happen. What is more, a miracle is actually happening right now — between Mozambique and South Africa. And all because of an example set more than 150 years ago by that indomitable pioneer, Louis Trichardt, his



A close-up of the wagons used by the Trichardt pioneers comprising over 50 people, twenty of whom died of malaria shortly after reaching Maputo

wife, Martha, and their group of 53. By ox-wagon from the Soutpansberg mountains in the Northern Transvaal to the capital of Mozambique (then Lourenço Marques), the journey took nine months and only a few months after reaching their destination in this epic saga, all but 23 died from malaria. Little did they know it then, but their tragic defeat turned out to be no defeat at all. Louis Trichardt had demonstrated the effectiveness of mutual respect and co-operation, and those who were kind to him in Mozambique demonstrated the effectiveness of friendship.



The gates to the Garden on the day of the official inauguration were crowded with visiting South Africans, the press and citizens of Maputo

Some 150 years later their descendants got together at the inauguration of the Louis Trichardt Memorial Garden in what is today Maputo (the garden



Left: Speeches made during the inauguration of the Memorial Garden paid tribute to the respect which Mozambique had shown towards the South African pioneers of the previous century in retaining the site even after Independence

is near the site of the house where he died) and what touched people's hearts most of all was the fact that throughout the ups and downs of interstate relations between the two countries since 1852, the people of Mozambique had shown their respect for Louis Trichardt's memory and honoured the site of his last resting place.

The get-together marked the official opening of the new South African Trade Mission offices only a few blocks away from the Louis Trichardt Memorial Garden in the heart of Maputo, an example of traditional South



Performing the opening ceremony was the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, photographed before the proceedings commenced with his wife, Mrs Helena Botha

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African hospitality which Mozambicans relished to the full.

The wines were from South Africa, as were the flowers, in the national colours of orange, white and blue — delphiniums, chrysanthemums and tiger lilies.

What politicians refer to as "bilateral relations" was, that day, perfectly and simply illustrated: enjoying each other's company and making the most of

Right: The new South African Trade Mission building in Maputo. It was officially opened on the same day as the inauguration of the Louis Trichardt Memorial Garden, attended by a large group of dignitaries from South Africa and Mozambique

Waiting to sign the visitors' book at the opening, Mr Kobus Meiring (centre), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs



all the good things to hand.

The good things to hand for Mozambicans and South Africans are:

- Using natural resources to each other's mutual benefit. Mozambique produces raw cotton, textiles, cashew nuts, tea, timber, sisal, ore and, of course, prawns; South Africa can provide work on its mines, technical training and markets.
- Tourism. Mozambique has palm-fringed beaches and lapping, shallow water. It has islands and game-fishing. South Africa has hosts of people who still remember holidays in Mozambique long ago and would flock back if restriction were lifted.



Below left: Mozambican members of staff from the South African Trade Mission pose in the garden on the day of the official opening

Below right: A splendid luncheon was held to celebrate the opening, and in the midday heat guests crowded into every available bit of shade





- The Nkomati Operational Centre at Komatipoort which monitors security.
- Some 15 new border crossing points between South Africa and Mozambique.
- Small businesses and craft centres at these crossing points.
- The new Trade Mission offices in Maputo.

Although free enterprise and state control are systems diametrically opposite to each other, mutual respect for each other's viewpoints is the pragmatic approach.

The events of the 25th October, 1988, proved beyond any doubt that people with differing ideas can co-exist peacefully given the right spirit. Let Mozambique and South Africa prove to the world that the solutions to Africa's overwhelming problems are to be found in Africa, in good relations between neighbours to each other's mutual benefit.

Guests from Maputo enjoy some of the humorous speeches made before the luncheon commenced

- Export facilities and convenient harbour. Maputo harbour is the nearest to the rich agricultural regions of the north-eastern Transvaal and is currently being upgraded to handle bulk consignments of ore and container traffic.

Since the signing of the Nkomati Accord (a non-aggression agreement) in 1984, progress achieved includes:

- Work on the restoration of the electric power supply from Cahora Bassa.

In the coolness of the air-conditioned Trade Mission building, Mr Pik Botha chats to Mr José Candido (centre left) and two of his colleagues, all businessmen from Maputo



South Africa's projects in Mozambique include:

- Investment in Maputo's Polana Hotel
- A joint venture between Sappi and Mozambique in a forest enterprise south of Maputo province
- Long-term investment pledged by Premier International (already involved in sending goods bought by Mozambican miners in South Africa back to Mozambique)
- A substantial role by SA firms in the rehabilitation and management of the port of Maputo.