

# Keen interest in <sup>30</sup> Mozambican farms <sup>22/24</sup>

AGRICULTURAL unions had been inundated with queries on farming in Mozambique, but it would be ill-advised to take hasty decisions on relocating before more information was available, Transvaal Agriculture Union vice-president Willie Lewies said yesterday.

Lewies was part of an agricultural delegation, led by Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen, which visited Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano last week.

Lewies said interest had also been shown by non-farming sectors, but it was necessary for feasibility studies to be done first.

"A team of experts in soil science, stock farming, veterinary science and irrigation will leave for Mozambique soon. It is too premature to make final recommendations. At this stage only the initial contact between the governments has been finalised."

The Freedom Front delegation intended to pave the way for SA farmers to develop land and train far-

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mers in Mozambique return for use of land on 40-year lease.

A bilateral agreement between SA and Mozambique to guarantee the security of farmers who made the move was expected to be signed next week, Transvaal Agriculture Union President Drie Bruwer said.

He said Chissano might visit SA next week.

Sapa reports from Capetown Viljoen told Parliament yesterday the Freedom Front's involvement in agricultural development projects in Mozambique was an example of participatory democracy in action, and President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki had to be thanked for allowing a small group to advance a deserving project.

He said Afrikaners had an essential role in southern Africa. Mandela had to be congratulated on his strong leadership of a government of national unity built on the unstable sands of power-sharing, he said.