

Energy Losses Blamed on 'Foreign Aggression'
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[Text] The Mozambican minister of energy and industry, Antonio Branco, has told journalists in Maputo that foreign aggression has cost Mozambique's energy direct losses of about \$50 million. Indirect losses because of war-related problems and industrial production are estimated at \$130 million. This figure was calculated on the basis on annual average production and not on the installed capacity of Mozambican industry.

The figures given by the minister cover both the periods of Rhodesian aggression against Mozambique and South African destabilization through the MNR bandits. Among the attacks, which deeply affected Mozambique's energy

network, were the destruction by the Rhodesians of the Mavuze power station in the Central Province of Sofala, the destruction of fuel tanks in Beira on two occasions, the sabotage of hundreds of pylons carrying power from the Cahora Bassa Dam, and MNR's wrecking of a key substation at Caia on the center-north power line.

Sabotage and destruction obliged Mozambique to import coal from South Africa at a heavy cost in foreign currency. Mozambique's own coal mined at Moatize in the northwestern Province of Tete cannot be transported efficiently because the railway to the Port of Beira has been sabotaged. Alternatives that do not rely on railway transport are being investigated.

Mozambique also pays foreign currency for electricity from South Africa to supply Maputo. This is a direct result of the sabotage of the Cahora Bassa transmission lines. This [word indistinct] adds enormously to the costs which the state has to pay for the energy that the country consumes.

Mr Branco said that the country's energy policy basically remains one of upgrading and maintaining the existing systems. He said that it was of particular importance that the South African Government has now agreed to pay up to \$26 million toward the rebuilding of the Cahora Bassa line.