

Rescue for SA 2 injured in Mozambique ambush

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JOHANNESBURG — Two South Africans were flown to safety by a Johannesburg businessman after they were seriously injured last week in an ambush in Mozambique.

Mr Louis van Schalkwyk, the Johannesburg businessman, flew to Mozambique by light aircraft to rescue his two friends and colleagues, Mr Hendrick Fourie, 38, and Mr John Odendaal, 38, who were listed as critical by Maputo doctors.

The two men were ambushed twice by a rebel faction en route to Maputo near Xai Xai on Wednesday.

The first ambush occurred in the morning when uniformed camouflaged men emerged from the bush with AK-47s. Refusing to stop, the two men drove through the ambush and they were fired at from behind.

Less than 5 kilometres further on, the two were again fired on by uniformed men who managed to hit them.

They continued driving despite their injuries and stopped at the nearest town 20 kilometres away.

Mr Van Schalkwyk said: "When I arrived in Maputo yesterday afternoon, they were in an appalling state.

They are now in Rob Ferreira Hospital at Nelspruit where their condition has been described as stable.