

**SPEECH OF H.E. Mr. FERNANDO FAZENDA, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO SOUTH AFRICA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE LOGISTICS FOCUS AND  
UPDATE ON THE MAPUTO CORRIDOR MEETING**

**Promenade Hotel, Nelspruit, Thursday, 18 October 2007**

Madame Master of Ceremonies, and CEO of MCLI, Mrs.  
Brenda Horne,

Distinguished Representatives of the various Institutions and  
Organizations

Distinguished Entrepreneurs,

Distinguished invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

First and foremost let me on behalf of the Government of  
Mozambique and indeed on my own behalf to thank the  
organizers of this important meeting.

One thing that impresses me about this gathering is its  
striking diversity, since we are from various institutions and  
organizations, such as government ministries and  
departments, private sector organizations and companies  
and other stakeholders. But yet we are all here because we  
face the same challenges.

It is indeed a great honor and pleasure for me to be here, in this beautiful city of Nelspruit, in the Mpumalanga Province and to have the privilege to say some few words in this occasion.

I say it is a privilege because you will all recall that in May of this year we gathered in Maputo during a stakeholders meeting of the Multilateral Maputo Corridor Transport Committee and the Annual General Meeting of the Maputo Corridor Logistic Initiative (MCLI), where some of the issues that we will discuss here today were also addressed and discussed.

It is therefore, that today's meeting is essentially for us to evaluate and review the progress that we have made so far in the various areas of the Maputo Corridor in general and in particular, focusing on the logistics component in order to facilitate the processes of our stakeholders in our countries.

This event and the audience in front of me are vivid reminder of the progress that we have achieved so far in a number of areas, such as Ports and Terminals in Maputo, Roads and Railways, the ongoing project of one stop border post at Lebombo/Ressano Garcia among others. But I am also sure that we still have some challenges ahead of us that we need to strive in order to overcome them urgently.

## **Dear Participants**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

We have seen in the past years a number of mega projects coming in benefiting our two countries in this economic struggle that we declared in order to eradicate poverty.

Let me mention among other projects, the Petroline Petrol Pipeline Project, Maputo Corridor Water Project and the Ressano Garcia Dry Port (that we will hear some developments about these projects today).

I would also like to inform this gathering that recently the Governments of Mozambique and South Africa met in Pretoria to discuss the Matola/Palaborwa Iron & Steel Initiative (MPISI) the former Matola Iron Steel Project (MISP), which has been in pipeline for quite long time.

These new projects, I believe will contribute tremendously for employment and welfare in our countries and are result of the conducive environment that we are creating for the business.

The Government of Mozambique is committed for the creation of an environment that will attract more investment for the country. It is therefore making efforts in reviewing all legal procedures with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders with the aim of improving the business environment in our country.

By concluding my remarks, let me agree with your slogan that indeed “WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THE MAPUTO CORRIDOR FIRST CHOICE FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS”.

Finally, let me also wish all of you fruitful discussions and deliberations during this one-day meeting.

With these few words I declare the Logistics focus and Update on Maputo Corridor Meeting opened.

Kanimambo,

Ni Bongile,

Muito Obrigado,

Thank you for your attention!!!!!!