

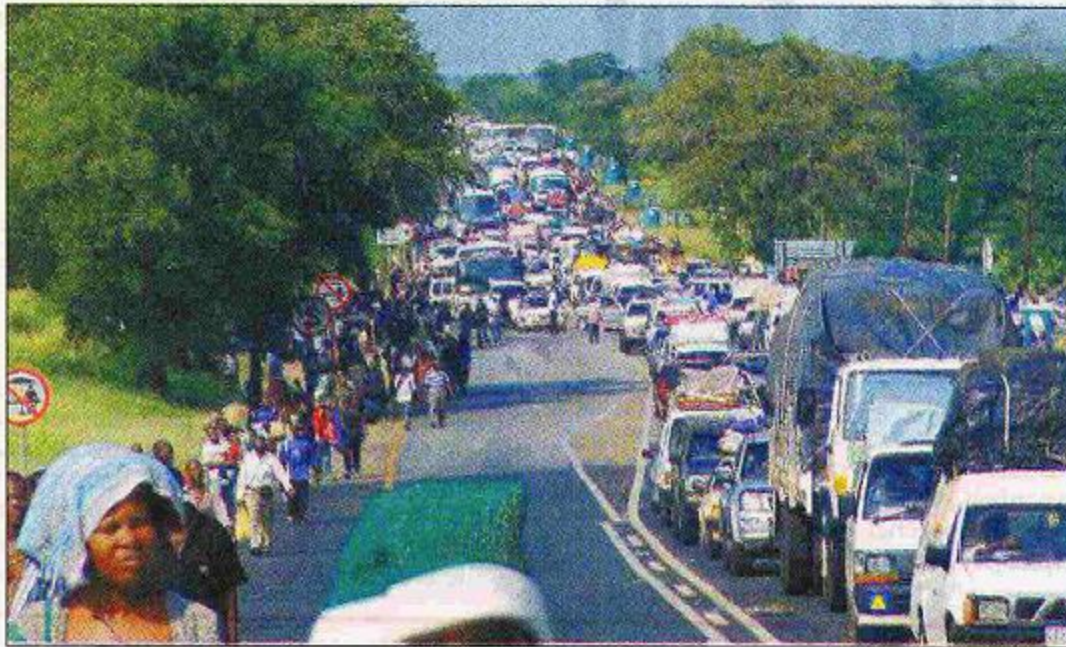
Border post is geared for the holiday rush

NELSPRUIT - The border planning meeting of over 28 different government departments and stakeholders from both South Africa and Mozambique, finalised its planning for the peak volumes of traffic crossing the border during the December period.

Ms Brenda Horne, chief executive officer for Maputu corridor logistics initiative (MCLI) says, "An immense load of work has gone into the planning phase over the past year, with all the relevant departments and stakeholders participating with tremendous cooperation between them, such as Trac painting parking bays on the Mozambique side of the border to facilitate more orderly parking. The problem remains that unknown factor - namely how many passengers need to be accommodated on which days - the tremendous success of regional integration on our corridor is unsurpassed, nevertheless planning is extremely difficult as far as resources are concerned - we know that on average, every month in the past year has seen a 30% increase in passenger volumes over the same period of 2006."

Government departments are set to employ additional staff and erect extra temporary infrastructure to accommodate the expected increase, particularly in passenger traffic during this season. Experienced gained during the massive influx of traffic during December 2006 has played a significant role in this year's planning. Due to the vast volumes and limitations of infrastructure and human resources, despite additional staff having been deployed, queues and congestion are still expected so travellers are requested to be patient and to prepare for this eventuality.

* A 24-hour operation for passenger traffic is effective at Lebombo/Ressano Garcia from



Traffic flow through the border post will increase over the next few weeks.

06:00 on Friday November 30 to January 15.

* Buses, taxis and commercial vehicles will be cleared at the Lebombo border dry port (old airport) from December 6, which will also operate 24 hours a day.

* Cargo clearing hours remain from 06:00 to 22:00, but cargo will be cleared at the Lebombo border dry port and escorted through the frontier separately from passenger traffic.

* Do not carry firearms as none may be carried across the border nor be handed in at any police station in South Africa, due to the changes in legislation in this regard.

* No animals whatsoever are permitted to be transported across the border.

* Transport operators from South Africa who are moving across the border are required to have permits issued by the Cross-

Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA). For enquiries in this regard, call 012-362-1864.

* Travellers who have visited, or come from, countries affected by yellow fever are advised to have a yellow fever vaccination for entry into both South Africa and Mozambique. For enquiries call the South African Department of Health on 013-793-7183

* Please note that there are many individuals working on both sides of the border who are passing themselves off as government officials and who offer to complete documentation on behalf of travellers for a fee. They are fraudsters and should be avoided at all costs. Please also note that no fees are payable on either side of the border for the completion of

documents. The only fee charged is R17 which is levied by Mozambican immigration for travellers into Mozambique for the processing of the passport at Ressano Garcia and is paid to the uniformed immigration officer.

* Please also do not use the runners at the border post who offer to jump the immigration queues for a fee. This could make you party to fraud and corruption and undermines the efforts of the relevant government departments to stamp out corruption and provide an effective service.

* South African travellers to Mozambique are required to complete a DA341 for their vehicles. Please ensure that information provided on that document is accurate, as there are serious legal implications should it be found to be inaccurate.

* Third-party insurance for South African vehicles crossing the border is compulsory and can be obtained from various outlets at the border and at Komatipoort, agents at the Lebombo border dry port, as well as the Sasol Garage near the N4. These service providers will also assist with necessary documentation for your trip across the border.

MCLI has produced a "Border Crossing Made Easy" pamphlet to assist travellers. Go to www.mcli.co.za/MCLI-Border-Pamphlet-Combined.pdf to access this pamphlet.

Horne also added, "MCLI would like to salute the men and women from all the participating departments who are committed to working under difficult conditions in extreme heat, around the clock over this festive period to ensure the most efficient and time-effective way to cross the border. We would like to encourage everyone to hang in there, since our joint 24 one-stop border post is on the drawing board."