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Talks under way over Moz scanning fees

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CARGO OWNERS and shippers through the port of Maputo in Mozambique are still being bedevilled by X-ray scanning fees on all cargo – regardless of whether it has been scanned or not.

A scanning charge is levied on all containers and it also hits all other cargo, including bagged and bulk cargo such as coal, ferrochrome, citrus fruit, sugar and granite. Where any of these cargoes are cost-sensitive, the extra scanning fee (not charged at SA ports) reduces Maputo's price-competitiveness in winning SA cargo, according to shippers and forwarders.

But sensitive negotiations are under way between port operators, the Maputo Port Development Company (MPDC) – representing all the cargo interests – and the government-approved scanning operation, Kadumba.