

FTWI - FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2007

Maputo rail link targets 9 million tons a year by 2009



David Gomes...
'Rehabilitation of the line will enable 20-ton axle loads, and the running of longer and heavier trains.'

ALAN PEAT

THE TARGET for the rail service on the Maputo Corridor is nine million tons a year by 2009, according to David Gomes, commercial director of Mozambican Ports and Railways (CFM).

He told the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) annual general meeting (AGM) recently that there was a continued strengthening of the working relationship between CFM and Spoornet

on the operation of the line from the border post at Ressano Garcia to the Port of Maputo.

This, he added, has seen steady and consistent growth in both coal and magnetite movement, as well as an increase in general cargo trains.

Short-term growth on the corridor will see an increase in fuel, containers, steel, ferrochrome, sulphur, vermiculite, granite, sugar, citrus and cars moving along this route.

"Projections are that we

will increase coal from the current 23 to 35 trains per week, and magnetite from 12 to 14 trains per week," said Gomes.

He also described himself as "upbeat" about the additional benefits of the completion of the rehabilitation of the line.

This, he told AGM members, would enable 20-ton axle loads, and the running of longer and heavier trains as a result of introducing air brake operations and additional capacity.