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Maputo scanning issue slows down volume growth

Ferrochrome and car terminal on hold pending resolution

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THERE HAS been steady growth in tonnages through the Port of Maputo, and an increase in shipping lines calling there, according to Dick Moore of port operators, Maputo Port Development Company (MPDC).

The new bulk liquids terminal is under construction, he told members at the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) annual general meeting (AGM) recently. It is intended to deal with the "significant increase in demand" for fuels and bio fuels, he added.

But he had disappointing news about the proposed ferrochrome terminal and car terminal.

These, Moore said, are among projects amounting to an investment of some US\$273-million (R1.9-billion) which are on hold until the resolution of the X-ray container scanning issue. This is after major objections to the Port of Maputo's scanning fee being charged on all cargo – regardless of whether scanned or not.

Moore pointed out that the port's annual growth rate of 12–16% per annum from 2003 had slowed to 2% as a result of the introduction of the scanner at the port. He expressed the hope that negotiations would resolve the issue to allow the port to operate a world class security system – and maintain its competitiveness.