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Tuesday, 19 June 2007

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Posted to the web on: 04 June 2007

Fair Trade: Maputo to get new export terminal

THE construction of a new fresh-produce export terminal at Maputo port will start at the end of next month.

According to the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative, the facility, which will have the capacity to handle 70000 tons of citrus and 10000 tons of frozen juice over a six-month period, could save South African farmers about \$2,14m a year in inland logistics costs.

However, the increase still represents only 20% of the potential export needs of Lowveld, Limpopo and Swaziland farmers. If all produce could flow through Maputo, annual savings to the agricultural sector could be as high as \$11,4m.

The facility, valued at \$5m, is expected to be operational in time for next years' season.

Towering plans to reach west Africa

SA'S Africa Cellular Towers (ACTowers) has announced plans to set up operations in Ghana as a springboard for its business activities in west Africa.

ACTowers will occupy space in the free zone to keep inventory in Ghana and may establish manufacturing capacity in that country to supply the rest of west and north Africa.

The free zone will provide ACTowers with some tax benefits; exports from the zone are exempt of charges.

ACTowers, which is active in 18 countries on the continent, manufactures steel communication towers, portal factories, steel fencing, diesel and water tanks, solar structures and undertakes general steel engineering.

Malawi wants better deal with SA

MALAWI is seeking to renegotiate the terms of its bilateral trade agreements with SA to help boost exports .

Its agreement with SA, signed in 1990, offers Malawi duty-free access on a nonreciprocal basis. But Malawi complains that the agreement's provisions on rules of origin are so restrictive that only a handful of its exports actually benefit from duty-free access.

The agreement requires that at least 25% of the value of the imported product be added or originated in Malawi. Malawi's trade deficit with SA reached \$309m in 2005, which is up from \$177m in 2000.