

### Maputo port to save SA farmers R15m

Maputo - Mozambique's Maputo Port will this year benefit from the construction of a multi-million rand fresh produce export terminal, Vista News reported on Wednesday.

This was revealed by Brenda Horne, chief executive of the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI), in a message in the organisation's publication, Newsflash.

She said the Industrial Development Corporation (CDI) and a consortium of private equity partners had just concluded a financial package to build and operate a state-of-the-art fresh produce export terminal at the Maputo Port.

The facility, valued at R30 million, will be able to handle 70 000 tons of citrus in a six month period and 10 000 tons of frozen juice.

"This increase in capacity of the Maputo Port and the fact that there is now weekly direct sailing from Maputo to the Far East will save South African farmers about R15 million per year just in inland logistics costs," Horne said.

The major shareholders of the project are South African based, Port Elizabeth Cold Store and a Mozambican company, Fidelity Investments.

One of the promoters and investors in the project, Jacey Strauss, is quoted in the newsletter as saying the export potential through the new project will "only represent about 20 percent of the potential export need of the Lowveld, Limpopo, Swaziland farmer."

If all the products could flow through the natural harbour then the saving to agriculture could be as high as R80 million per annum.

The facility is expected to supply markets in China, Korea and Taiwan.

The new facility is expected to handle 3 200 pallets at a time.

Construction is expected to start at the end of April this year and the terminal would be ready by 2008. - Sapa

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