

## Fruit terminal at Maputo port will benefit citrus farmers

By From Sapa

Maputo - Maputo port would start building a multimillion-rand fresh produce export terminal this year, Vista News reported yesterday.

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

She said the Industrial Development Corporation 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, would be able to handle 70 000 tons of citrus in a six-month season 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 a year in inland logistics costs," Horne said.

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

Jacey Strauss, an investor in the project, is quoted in the newsletter as saying the export potential through the new project would "only represent about 20 percent of the potential export need of the Lowveld, Limpopo and Swaziland farmers".

If all their products could flow through the natural harbour, the saving to agriculture could be as high as R80 million a year.

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

Construction is expected to start at the end of next month and the terminal would be ready by 2008.

Published on the web by Business Report on March 28, 2007.

---

© Business Report 2007. All rights reserved.

IdL Business Report