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## Maputo rail route records steady growth

**Date : 2007/05/30**

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Strong co-operation between Mozambican Ports and Railways (CFM) and Spoornet on the operation of the Ressano Garcia - Maputo rail line has seen steady growth in traffic moving on the route. David Gomes, CFM commercial director, said last week that there was consistent growth in both coal and magnetite movement to the port, 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 was also upbeat about the additional benefits of the completion of the rehabilitation of the line which 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. The target for rail service on the Maputo Corridor is 9 million tons by 2009.

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