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## Visa scrapping sees increased travel to SA

Maputo - There has been a 30 percent increase in traffic at the main road border between South Africa and Mozambique since the two countries lifted visa requirements for their nationals, Vista news reported.

Brenda Horne, chief executive officer of the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) said on Friday that a total of 381 560 people passed through the Ressano Garcia-Lebombo border during last month's holidays.

The same holidays last year processed 284 351 travellers.

In April 2005 only 165 957 passengers crossed at the border post.

This resulted in an increase of 97 209 which represented an increase of 34 per cent, she said.

"It is clear that this very decision (to abolish restrictive visas) worked very well to encourage regional integration and encouraged the movement of our people across our border between our two countries," she said.

Horne said the increased movement had resulted in the "growth in number of retail outlets along the Maputo Corridor".

The visa waiver between South Africa and Mozambique came into effect in April 2005, and allows citizens of each country a 30-day free entry period.

Mozambique has signed similar agreements with Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia.  
- Sapa

*Published on the Web by IOL on 2007-05-04 08:26:11*

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