

Train trip salvaged by MCLI

Rail transport corridors are the lifeline of Mozambique and the port of Maputo

NELSPRUIT - The Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) is pleased to announce that CFM (ports and railways of Mozambique) has come to the rescue of its annual general meeting's proposed train trip, that was initially cancelled last week.

CFM has generously offered to sponsor, in full, the train trip for delegates. This is very good news indeed. CFM's intervention is a strong indication of its commitment to customers and to its strategy of ensuring increased tonnage on the line.

Stakeholders are delighted with this development because of the opportunity to experience the rail trip first hand. MCLI is appealing to all stakeholders to support this trip, which is an excellent opportunity to network with key colleagues on the corridor and an opportunity to see the completion of the rehabilitation of the Ressano Garcia to Maputo line.

Ms Brenda Horne, CEO of MCLI says, "This event is a significant one in that the newly appointed minister of transport and communications in Mozambique, Mr Paulo Zucula, will address the industry, as will MCLI's South African chairman, Dr Mathews Phosa. Important updates on the key infrastructure, namely the road, the rail, the Lebombo/Ressano Garcia one-stop border post, and the port and terminals, will also be presented."

Please note the following:

* There is no cost to delegates who travel by train. CFM's sponsorship covers the full cost of the trip.

* Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation (both booking and payment).

* Registration is essential and no bookings will be confirmed without a registration form. The deadline for registration has been moved to Wednesday May 21.

* If you have already registered but have not received confirmation, kindly contact MCLI's office urgently.

* As this is a sponsored trip and there is substantial space available, please feel free to inform as many of your own stakeholders as possible.

Rail transport corridors are the lifeline of Mozambique and the port of Maputo is connected to its hinterland with three railway lines, from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

After extensive time and an unsuccessful concession of the rail line between South

Africa and Maputo the two heads of state (RSA and Mozambique) mandated the two railways to meet at senior management level in June 2006. The objective was to establish a task team to define strategies and working plans to revive the Maputo Rail Corridor.

The Mozambican rail operator, CFM, completed a \$20 million upgrade of the Ressano Garcia Railway at the end of 2007 (with only two more bridges in the process of strengthening to facilitate longer trains), directly linking Maputo with South Africa's Transnet Freight Rail system.

There is now excellent cooperation between CFM and Transnet Freight Rail.

Enquiries: Barbara Mommen on barbara.mommen@mcli.co.za or fax 086-693-3382.