

INSERT FOR

DINNER HOSTED BY
THE HONOURABLE A. MANHENJE
MINISTER OF INTERIOR, DEFENCE AND SECURITY AFFAIRS
IN THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
REMARKS BY
MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, MP
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Mozambique: March 30, 2002

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IS TO BE ADDED BEFORE THE PARAGRAPH
COMMENCING "THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR HONOURABLE HOST, MINISTER MANHENJE AND MYSELF

"The good relationship between our Honourable host, Minister Manhenje and myself has been already extremely productive and, I trust, will continue to be equally productive in the future. On March 16 of last year, we had a very profitable meeting in Durban, in which we recorded a wide range of agreements, which brought the relationship between the Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa towards much closer co-operation. During that meeting we tackled very difficult issues and, with extraordinary mutual goodwill, we managed to find positive solutions to these.

My colleague, being the experienced statesman he is, shared with me the knowledge that it is often simpler to find commonality and agreement in respect of fundamental issues of principle than it is to reach consensus on intricate matters of detail such as logistical arrangements and administrative procedures. Unfortunately, migration control consists of intricate logistical arrangements and procedures which each country develops within the parameters of its own administrative mind set, laws, regulations and priorities. Yet, by definition, migration control does not stop at our boundaries and, by necessity, it has to interface with our neighbours across them. This function is not dissimilar to countries building their own railways, which, in order to meet at the boundary line, must be conceived to reach the same destination and have the same characteristics of size and gauge.

Therefore, on this occasion, it is a pleasure for me to register the broad range of agreements we reached during our meeting of last year. In respect of the border post of Ponta Du Oura-Kosi Bay, it was agreed that the national directorate for immigration of both our countries will present a report to my colleague and myself, so as to address all issues relating to this point of entry. Since our officials have engaged in negotiations to take this matter further, apparently with many set backs, but identifying the possibility of erecting similar structures on both sides of a one stop service border post and re-evaluating the actual location of the post. In respect of the Ressano Garsiea-Lebombo point of entry, we both took note that the Mozambican government is considering the signature of the international agreement aimed at establishing a one-stop border post, and this issue will be included in the report to which I referred earlier. I am pleased to announce that my department has established a 24-hour service border post for

operation during certain seasons such as over the Easter and other holidays, whilst consideration is still being given to operating an all-inclusive 24-hour border post service.

| also had the pleasure of informing my colleague that the Mbuzini border post is under the control of our Department of Defence and not in use other than for particular occasions such as to commemorate the death of former President Machel. We have also considered positively my colleague's request for assistance to supply water and electricity to the Mozambican side of Pafuri along with the possibility of extending assistance to the Mozambican officials to receive food from South Africa. We will do that with pleasure, even though we cannot guarantee that what we supply them will be of the same extraordinary quality as the food to which | have grown accustomed to eating in Mozambique and which we are receiving on this sumptuous occasion.

What is important is our mutual desire to help and assist. For this reason, we were pleased to agree to offer our assistance to extend the border concessions to the border areas of Phuza 1 and 2 in order to facilitate the movement of the people living along the border subject to such citizens being in possession of passports. We are still in the process of studying this request and | expect more positive developments to flow out of our next meeting in respect of this matter. During our meeting we made progress not only in respect of border posts, but also in respect of the thorny issues of repatriation. In this respect we agreed that we should nominate a focal point to monitor the repatriation process as well as the accommodation facility in each centre. The attitude we adopted showed the degree to which we are mutually willing to share a problem without falling prey to a parochial attitude which would see the issue of repatriation affecting our two countries differently. It is indeed our common problem in all aspects, even though we are forced by circumstances to act differently in respect of it. In this regard, we appreciate the Mozambican undertaking to improve facilities at Mohamba to accommodate it for offloading of its repatriated citizens, and we await information on the progress of this project.

We also share challenges and opportunities in respect of the thorny management of refugees and asylum seekers, which is a growing, grave concern for countries across the world. We all share in the responsibility for fulfilling the high moral imperatives set forth in the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugee affairs, but many countries are unfortunately provided with insufficient resources to cope with the ever escalating demands arising from a trans-border movement of people who are pushed by a variety of reasons underpinning their fear, desperation and distress. During our last meeting, my colleague and | agreed that our respective departments should nominate a focal point to monitor matters relating to refugee affairs in each of our countries. It was also agreed that a tripartite team of Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland should be established to deal with this issue and that we would approach the UN High Commission for Refugees to co-ordinate on this matter.

The depth of a dialogue is often measured by the willingness of both parties to engage in discussion on all issues which are relevant even when they are difficult. In our meeting we did not shy away from issues relating to visas and it was remarkable that we could reach agreement even in this respect. Our Mozambican counterparts

expressed their concern about the high prices of our visas and pointed to the need for fixing such prices through mutual consultation as originally agreed in the first joint commission between our two countries. We also tabled this decision to be reported in the further stages of our consultations. Moreover, the Mozambican delegation proposed that an agreement in respect of the Diplomatic and Service Passport Holders should be reached between the two countries in order to facilitate their movement, and that this should be the first stage toward total abolition of visas between the two countries. My department has taken these issues at heart and | am pleased to inform that | have now approved to ease the movement of holders of diplomatic and service passports thereby allowing them entry without visas. To implement this, | now await formal reciprocity from Mozambique and a date on which both countries will make this effective.

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Message

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