

Local business pleads for aid before doors open

With the end of war in sight in Mozambique, the industrial sector has appealed for government and donor assistance to develop local businesses before the country opens its doors to foreign entrepreneurs and products.

Antonio Matos, vice-president of the National Association of Mozambique Industries (Aimo), said he is concerned with the manufacturing sector's status quo.

Matos was among the delegates attending a local three-day regional busi-

ness conference last week. "In general we support the economic reforms that have taken place," Matos said, in reference to the structural adjustment programme.

"We are not asking for protectionism, but for a period of time to adjust to the new economic environment that has been evolving," he stressed.

Mozambique has the world's lowest Gross National Product per capita, according to the World Bank's 1992 report [*Agencies*]