

## BUILDING A POST-COLONIAL POWER SYSTEM

The Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme was conceived in purely colonial terms as benefiting not the country in which it is situated, but rather the ally of the colonising power. South Africa currently receives power from the dam at a price set by contract with Portugal, which is lower than the production cost, according to Francisco Caravela, National Director for Energy. In fact, Mozambique has to buy back power from South Africa for Maputo at a more expensive rate.

Portugal is currently renegotiating the contract with South Africa. Mozambique would like to be in a position to withdraw the supply from South Africa; Cahora Bassa company which is currently 80% Portuguese-owned and 20% Mozambique-owned, will eventually become completely Mozambique controlled. Mozambique is determined to use Cahora Bassa's current excess capacity for its own benefit, and on a more long-term basis, for the use of its SADCC partners.

Currently, a 2,000 km power line is being constructed to Mocuba in the north, to be completed by December. It is scheduled to be extended to Nampula by December 1983. Finance is coming from France, Italy and Sweden - totalling \$180m. The supply is intended for aluminium production in the Central Region, iron and steel works, textile and cashew factories, as well as domestic use.

Most recently, Mozambique has announced the go-ahead for the second phase of the station at Cahora Bassa - installation of the north bank power generators, costing \$6m. The Swedish company, Sweco-Swedpower has been appointed consulting engineer.

The second stage will involve an underground power station on the Zambezi's north bank providing 1,600-1,800 MW, about 600km of overhead transmission lines, and 22 substations. When completed, the station will lift Cahora Bassa's generating capacity around 4,000 MW, making it Africa's largest scheme. The new units are scheduled to be commissioned in 1987.

Funding for about half the total project will be by long-term borrowing on the international market, the remainder coming from Cahora Bassa revenue.

Also under consideration for implementation in the current Ten-Year Development Plan is the Mapenda Uncua scheme, about 40km downstream of Cahora Bassa. This scheme, planned to generate about 1,700 MW, has had a somewhat erratic history, and in fact its construction depends almost solely on non-Mozambique demands for energy. However, the dam on the Limpopo river, some 50km upstream from the capital Maputo, is to go ahead. The contract has been awarded to two Italian companies, Italstrade and Muratori & Cementisti.