

Charting a course in Mozambique

NELSPRUIT-based Metavla airline and two Maputo businessmen have set up a Mozambique-registered airline to operate charter and relief aid flights in that country.

Metavla director and G M Diedre Ward said the new airline, called Tropical Airlines, had applied for licences to operate scheduled flights between Mozambique's major centres.

Tropical is one of several undertakings vying to exploit Mozambique's domestic aviation market which has been largely neglected by the national carrier LAM.

LINDEN BIRNS

"It took us two years to get the airline registered as bureaucracy slowed things down, but we are optimistic that the Mozambican department of civil aviation will make a decision on our application within the next six months," she said.

Metavla injected about \$100 000 into Tropical. If the scheduled licences are granted, more will probably be invested to help finance the acquisition of a 30-seater passenger aircraft.