

AIR ZIM CHARTERS 4 PLANES TO MAPUTO

Herald Reporter

AIR ZIMBABWE is wet leasing aircraft to both LAM of Mozambique and Air Malawi for weekend flights, the airline's general manager, Cde Fungayi Musara, said yesterday.

Wet leasing is when the plane is chartered with full flight and cabin crew.

Cde Musara said following an accident involving one of its Boeing 737s, LAM had asked to wet-lease a similar Air Zimbabwe plane for a total of 16 days to handle the weekend traffic in

Mozambique. 8/3/89

The plane had already served four days with LAM, one day the weekend before last and three days last weekend. The agreement would run to April 2.

Air Malawi had also leased an Air Zimbabwe plane twice. This was the plane serving the Harare-Johannesburg route on Sundays. Instead of waiting at Jan Smuts for some hours for the return trip, a return flight from Johannesburg to Lilongwe had been fitted in, over the last two weekends.

The leases are part of Air Zimbabwe's efforts to make fuller use of its fleet, thus increasing revenue.

The airline has already introduced a business class on its 737 fleet of three, providing greater leg-room for this important group of passengers. The service was also available to those passengers who booked business class on other airlines coming into Zimbabwe and who transferred to regional Air Zimbabwe flights.

The 707 fleet is also being used more fully with the introduction of Larnaca in Cyprus as a fourth European destination.

A rearrangement of some schedules had followed the introduction of a new destination and the increase in weekly European flights from five to six, with Athens now being a final instead of a transit destination.

From the end of the month there would be three direct flights to London a week, one direct to Frankfurt, one to London via Frankfurt and one to Athens via Larnaca.