

Families tell of 'ordeal' in Maputo

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22/4/78

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TWO families from Mozambique flew from Johannesburg this week to a new future abroad—embittered and relieved after their experiences in the marxist country.

They told about child labour being used by Frelimo to cultivate the land, and of broken down pub-

lic amenities and other retrogressions in that country.

Mrs K. Cara who left for Sao Paulo in Brazil with her husband and two children said: "I thank God that we are out of there."

The other family, which still has relations in Mozambique, also said they were relieved to be out.

They did not want to be named. They left for Portugal.

Both families said their biggest agony was to see their children being taken away in the mornings by Frelimo to work in the fields.

"They worked from day-break to past noon. After lunch they went to school

until late afternoon," Mrs Cara said.

The school lessons, according to the families, consisted mostly of marxist indoctrination. All public religious lessons, the families said, had come to a stop.

"All you see in the places where we once worshipped are large life-size

photos of Samora Machel," Mr Cara said.

They also said that public amenities in the towns had broken down.

"Most skilled workers have left the country. Many lifts in buildings are standing jammed and toilet systems are blocked. The streets smell awful from blocked toilet pipes

and overflowing drains," Mr Cara said.

The families said people who had been living in huts all their lives had moved into Maputo to occupy flats with all their domestic animals.

There was a serious shortage of food and frustrated people stood in long queues for a loaf of bread.