

Mozambican Miners Recruited Before S African Ban Allowed to Work

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Excerpt from dispatch datelined Johannesburg, 16th October:

Some 750 Mozambican mineworkers who were affected by last week's official order to suspend recruitment of workers in Mozambique would now be permitted to enter South Africa and take up their jobs as a result of negotiations between the Chamber of Mines and the South African government.

This was announced today by the President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr E.P. Gush, when he addressed a function at East Rand Proprietary Mines Ltd (ERPM) in Bosburg. Mr Gush said: "For the best part of the past 100 years Mozambique has been one of the most important sources of labour for South Africa's gold mines and wages

earned on the gold mines have been the main source of foreign earnings for Mozambique. It is a matter of great regret therefore that this relationship between our mining industry and the people of Mozambique has been threatened because of political volatility and considerable weakness in the Mozambique government's position on the one hand and the sustained pressure being encountered by the South African government on the other. We in the mining industry hope that these political problems can still be resolved", Mr Gush said.

"Indeed, we have been discussing the situation with the South African government since the order last week to suspend the recruiting of mineworkers from Mozambique. Among other things, the Chamber at a meeting in Pretoria yesterday raised the issue of people who had been recruited at the time of the government's suspension but who had not been permitted to proceed to South Africa. As a result of these negotiations clarity on this issue has been obtained and some 750 mineworkers who were affected will now be permitted to enter South Africa and take up their jobs", he said. "I believe all South Africans should be aware of the very great debt we owe to the hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans who have worked on our mines and who helped to sustain our industry in difficult times". . .