

Pik appeals for more aid from the West for Maputo

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SOUTH AFRICA took its "hands across the Nkomati" policy one step forward this week when Foreign Minister Pik Botha appealed to the seven leading western industrial nations to help Mozambique.

At a lunch in Cape Town, Mr Botha met the ambassadors or senior representatives of the United States, Britain, France, Japan, West Germany, Canada and Italy.

He called on the governments concerned to involve themselves in greater development efforts in Mozambique.

The matching of political expectations with economic progress is one of the most pressing needs facing both Pretoria and Maputo in the wake of the Nkomati Accord.

The inability of either South Africa or western agencies to provide anything near the level of development assistance required by the desolated Mozambican economy is a cause for concern.

South Africa has already begun its own initiative to co-ordinate domestic private-sector investment interest in Mozambique to assist the long and difficult path back to re-establishing the Mozambican economy.

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