

Labor Minister Mazula Departs for RSA Visit

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[Text] Mozambican Labor Minister Aguiar Mazula left Maputo for a working visit to South Africa today at the invitation of the South African minister of manpower. Our correspondent Fernando Canana was at the airport to speak to him before his departure.

[Begin recording] [Canana] Aguiar Mazula told me before his departure that his visit was aimed at ensuring the good use of Mozambican laborers in this neighboring country. Listeners will recall that the Pretoria government threatened to expell Mozambican workers in South African mines.

[Mazula] The last time I visited South Africa, we studied the possibility of reviewing the Nkomati Accord, particularly as it relates to manpower. Accordingly, I think this invitation is aimed at continuing that work.

[Canana] But Your Excellency, what specific issues related to the miners will be discussed during your visit to South Africa?

[Mazula] Well, first of all, we will review the existing situation. As you are aware, the South African Government adopted unilateral measures to expel our laborers in 1986, and we were not given any reasons why they intended to adopt that move.

However, since then, both our governments have made efforts to strictly adhere to the terms of the Nkomati Accord. The Songo meeting could thus be viewed in this framework of efforts by both countries. Hence, I hope South African manpower minister and I will continue our discussions on manpower, and obviously explore the possibilities of reaching an agreement quickly in this field.

[Canana] Our country's labor minister added that there are currently about 60,000 Mozambican miners in South Africa. [end recording]