

# Safto envoy sees future for SA in Mozambique

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JOHANNESBURG. — A South Africa trade official has come home from Mozambique saying the country offers great potential for South African businessmen, but those only interested in earning a fast buck should stay out.

Angela Self of the South African Foreign Trade Organisation said yesterday she found the business community in Maputo very optimistic and keen to attract partners from South Africa.

"There is optimism tempered with understanding that it will take a long time to sort things out," said Ms Self, who went to Mozambique on a fact-finding visit.

The country was emerging from nearly two decades of one-party Marxist rule and had been devastated by war between the government and Renamo rebels. A peace accord was signed in October.

"There is not going to be a rush of new investment in Mozambique, but there will be an enormous job in rebuilding the country's infrastructure," Ms Self said.

She said "a number of interested parties" were visiting Mozambique from South Africa to look into business opportunities.

"We could see trilateral deals be-

tween Mozambicans, South African and Portuguese companies eager to get back into their old stamping-ground," she added.

She said Portuguese businessmen were encouraged that the Frelimo government, which came to power in 1975 after 10 years fighting colonial rule, had handed back confiscated property and was privatising state-owned companies.

She said South African business would be particularly interested in tourism, timber, mining — including coal deposits in the north — and exploration for oil and gas deposits.

"Africa is looking to South Africa for long-term help," she added, "but with an annual per capita income of only R250 (in Mozambique), those after a fast buck might as well stay out." — Sapa-Reuter.