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SA, Mozambique to 'curb crime'

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SOUTH AFRICA and Mozambique yesterday agreed to a far-reaching policing plan aimed at cracking down on cross-border crime like gun-running, drug-smuggling and organised car theft.

The two governments, who described the accord as "a major breakthrough", hope to extend the crime-busting plan to the entire subcontinent "as soon as possible".

The agreement followed a two-hour meeting in Cape Town between delegations led by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Hernus Kriel, and the Mozambican Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr Manuel José Antonio.

Both ministers said the reciprocal extradition of criminals should receive priority and that the combating of the following forms of organised crime would enjoy special attention:

- Organised arms-smuggling;
- The organised drug trade, and
- Organised car theft.

● From Pretoria it has been reported that three Mozambican nationals arrested near Komatipoort on Sunday allegedly in possession of four SAM-7 ground-to-air missiles are expected to appear in court today.

Two of men are said to be Frelimo soldiers.

The alleged smugglers apparently crossed the border from Mozambique into South Africa near the Lebombo border post. — Sapa