

Developers take critical look at Mozambique

ROBYN CHALMERS

SA DEVELOPERS have targeted Mozambique for eco-tourism and hotel projects as the country edges towards peace.

Group Five Property Development MD Collin Taylor said the organisation had talked to the Mozambique government about putting together a tourist-related project.

"There are about 9 000 UN operatives in Mozambique, working to demobilise Renamo and Frelimo soldiers. They have taken up all available hotel space which is up to Western standards.

"As a result, there are opportunities for new hotel developments, which we are considering.

"However, there are still major obstacles in terms of infrastructure which need to be overcome."

The Polana Hotel in Maputo was the only hotel which was in line with Western standards, but its rates were comparatively high.

Taylor said, as a developer, Group Five would consider putting together a deal involving a financier, operator

and contractor, but nothing concrete had yet been decided on.

Group Five chairman Theunis Kotzee said the organisation kept an eye on various southern African countries to ascertain their potential.

City Lodge financial director Bill Dickson said the group had visited Mozambique to look at the potential of the region, but had not yet considered investing.

Dickson said the country was not yet stable and there were infrastructural deficiencies such as electricity and water supply.

BD 6/4/94