

Network steals thousands of bags filled with maize

The Argus Foreign Service 30/1/92

MAPUTO. — A newspaper here has revealed that "tens of thousands" of bags of maize and wheat are stolen every month from a government-owned food processing plant in Beira.

The Maputo daily, *Noticias*, says it has exposed the existence of a network of conmen and thieves which is systematically defrauding the factory. The network, it says, includes bakery owners and other businessmen and is co-ordinated by employees of the government-owned factory, Mobeira.

The sacks of grain leave the factory through the use of fraudulent invoices, in the name of companies which never requested the food and in some cases do not even exist.

These frauds mean, it says, that genuine Mobeira clients, who are entitled to monthly quotas of wheat and flour, find that there is not enough left for them.

The paper notes that some Mobeira officials, with a monthly salary of only 200 000 meticals (about R302) have acquired cars, motorbikes and well-furnished homes.