

Mozambican drug ^{ET} runner fined R25 000 _{10/2/94}

Staff Reporter

A MOZAMBICAN drug runner was yesterday convicted in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court of dealing in R900 000 worth of Mandrax, and sentenced to a R25 000 fine or five years imprisonment.

Jose Manuel Luzenda, 32, of Maputo, pleaded guilty to possessing and dealing in 42 000 Mandrax tablets. He was given a five-year jail sentence, suspended for five years, and a R25 000 fine or five years imprisonment.

Luzenda said a man called Ismail Laber paid him R500 to transport the drugs from Johannesburg to Cape Town, where he was to have received a further R1 500 from a Mr Moosa along with papers ensuring him work and citizenship.

Magistrate Mr P S Sauerma said in sentencing that "drug baron's can't exist without runners, so you were an integral part of the system".

The prosecutor was Mr M B De Vries, and Mr Mahomed Ismail appeared for the accused.