

Mozambique land scheme may fit with 'Boerestaat'

LONDON/ The lid on some South African white right-wing thinking has been partially lifted by a failed attempt here to secure funds to take over control of a swathe of Mozambique's Gaza province.

The project, which its organisers' prospectus estimates would cost \$491 million, may be part of a wider strategy conceived by right-wing groups involving white farmers occupying part of the southern province of Gaza adjoining the north-eastern Transvaal.

Already many South African farmers

have secured occupancy of land in Mozambique, while there is a well-founded plan for extending the Kruger National Park into Mozambique.

The prospectus formulated by the Sub-Saharan Development Company - an offshoot of a group named Soundprops Investment 1145 Pty Ltd of Pietersburg - discloses the area it would like for its development programme is under Renamo control; that the programme has the backing of Re-

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Mozambique plan

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namo leaders and would have the protection of Renamo guerrillas; and that "at no stage must the government of Mozambique be informed that Renamo supports this scheme."

The men behind the deal are believed to have connections to the Afrikaner far-right.

Project implementation consultants are noted as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The company's managing director and a companion left London hurriedly last month after police were called in to quiz them over non-payment of bills of around £20,000 at a Chelsea hotel (*SouthScan* v8/1 p8).

Intelligence sources reported they picked up evidence alleging the two men were in touch with arms traders and they were seeking to buy supplies on behalf of Eugene Terre'Blanche's *Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging* (AWB). Terre'Blanche has reportedly acknowledged knowing one of the men.

According to the prospectus they sought funding to:

- Launch an extensive cattle ranching and wildlife conservation scheme;
- Establish a meat processing factory;
- Restore and upgrade the rail link from Gaza to Zimbabwe and then to Maputo.

The area for development would be between one and three million hectares.

A large number of South African proposals for commercial and property deals pass over Mozambican desks each month, seeking the peace dividend. Many are not serious, and others get ensnared in extensive Mozambican red tape.

Gaza province has long been seen by South Africa as a natural extension of the Kruger Park and as grazing territory for the cattle breeders and farmers of the Lowveld. But it has also for gen-

erations been the preserve of Shangaan cattle-raisers.

In its presentation to Mozambique's Office for the Promotion of Foreign Investment, one of the directors makes clear his company expects the allocation of land would have to give full ownership to the developers; only when full and final agreement is reached would capital be raised - even though an amount of \$85m has already been pledged in principle by an unnamed investment group.

The World Bank and other international aid organisations and banks are to be approached; all equipment and livestock into the development area would need to be exempted from duties or taxes for five years; and no income tax should be levied on the company for the first ten years of operations.

Jose Julai Mazive, deputy director of Mozambique's Office for the Promotion of Foreign Investment, gave a cautious go-ahead in Maputo in January, 1992, with the final OK dependent on guarantees of finance.

The directors wrote that at no stage must the government of Mozambique be informed that Renamo supported this scheme saying that "most Renamo guerrillas in the area will be employed by the company and would serve as a stabilising factor".

Boerestaters

Andries Beyers of the *Afrikaner Volksunie* - a breakaway from the Conservative Party - recently held talks with the ANC's Nelson Mandela on his vision of a separate Afrikaner state (*SouthScan* v7/45 p346).

He said his party was seeking "a small area in the northern part of the country with Pretoria as the focal point, and that the borders be drawn in such a way that the Afrikaner people will at least be in the majority".

Varieties of federation are now being discussed between the parties in South Africa - ranging from the ANC's 16 regions to the government's seven provinces.

The Afrikaner umbrella right-wing grouping, the *Volkseenheidskomitee*, on which the Conservative Party sits, has suggested an Afrikaner state fragmented to ensure an Afrikaner majority in each bit. [*Own correspondent*]