

Sabta helps organise taxis in Mozambique

THE Southern African Black Taxi Association (Sabta) is to help Mozambican taxi operators set up routes and an association as part of Sabta's drive to expand into Africa.

Foundation of African Business and Consumer Services (Fabcos) spokesman Fan-
yana Shiburi said yesterday that Sabta had established links with taxi operators in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Fabcos affiliate Sabta has sent two officials and 10 taxis to Mozambique.

It has had unofficial talks with Zambian and Zimbabwean taxi operators, who are maintaining a low-key contact with Sabta as their governments are still cautious about contact with SA.

Most southern African regions will be sending delegations to Sabta's annual conference in Sun City in September, when regional co-operation will be discussed.

"Our presence in neighbouring countries has of course been determined by the attitudes of our political leaders who want local black entrepreneurs to forge links with Africa," Shiburi said.

THAMI MAZWAI

After Sabta helped upgrade services in Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland, it saw the benefit from the profitable commuter trade between SA and neighbouring states.

The taxi associations in these countries are affiliated to Sabta and are represented on its national executive. Shiburi said Sabta might soon become the first post-apartheid regional trade association.

He said revenues of taxi operators in neighbouring countries were declining as their national economies faltered and they wanted to switch from a metering system to Sabta's point-to-point fare structure.

Sabta had also assisted taxi owners in neighbouring states by guaranteeing a portion of the deposits needed to buy minibuses.

□ Sabta's rival, the National Federated Taxi Organisation, is also making headway in establishing links with Africa, with the assistance of its parent, the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce.

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