

From TIM COHEN in Maputo

THE day President Nelson Mandela arrived in Maputo on his first state visit to a foreign country, there was a traffic jam. In Maputo that rates as a minor news event.

There was a time in the not too distant past when the streets of Maputo were filled with more broken cars than working ones. Maputo's wide avenues were littered with wrecks, marring the beauty of the best laid-out city in Southern Africa.

Today, Maputo is clearly on the mend. Corner cafés that were boarded up for years now overflow on to the streets just like their Mediterranean derivatives. The shade from huge trees and hibiscus creepers still contribute to the exotic atmosphere that conjures sweet memories in the minds of many South Africans.

Like Maputo, Mozambique is going through a period of astounding resuscitation. The news-sheet *Inview* quotes figures released by the National Planning Commission which showed that the country's economy grew by 19.2% last year, making it one of the fastest growing in the world. The growth took place off a tiny base and the news-sheet immediately cast doubt on the veracity of the figures, but the vast improvements are out there for everyone to see. Street sellers now sell cement, not only grotesque carvings and rotten fruit.

Corruption

The "challenges" faced by the country still exist in excess. One example was provided by soldiers on the presidential estate who demanded "beer money" from two South African journalists on two separate occasions. If corruption takes place by the president's own staff, within sight of the presidential residence, where else does it take place? The answer, of course, is everywhere.

With a 150% duty on liquor entering Mozambique, hoteliers complain they can't do otherwise than buy on the black market lest they be undercut by black marketers.

Another concern is that the growth spurt could largely be a flash in the pan caused by a contingent of about 7 000 UN and aid agency officials who cost an estimated \$1-million (R3.6-m) a day to maintain. But the growth seems to reach deeper than that.

The civil war officially drew to a close two years ago following Frelimo's abandonment of a Leninist form of socialism two years before that. The country was rated one of the poorest in the world and it still is, but at least the indicators are pointing in the right direction. Reports from the north say crop surpluses are finding their way to the market for the first time in years.

Now Mozambicans are hoping the election due to be held late in October goes off

Second-generation African leaders a strong contrast

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well. As in South Africa, doubts will continue to linger until the result is clear. Everything is running behind schedule, including the registration process, but the peace has held and the demilitarisation process is proceeding.

The issue of the moment is whether Mozambique ought to follow South Africa's example and establish a government of national unity, which the new negotiated constitution currently does not provide for. Mandela, though quizzed on the question, demurred but managed to leave the impression he thought the Mozambican government was making a mistake.

Mandela said that after decades of apartheid, it was not easy to forget the past, but he went on to say "we need to learn from the mistakes of the past but we must also learn to live for the future".

The reason why a government of national unity was rejected has nothing to do with advice provided by advisers and diplomats — who are strongly but privately in favour of the idea — and everything to do with power of the hardliners within the ruling Frelimo party. The hardliners feel uncomfortable enough about an election, but having been forced to accept that idea, they were not prepared to guarantee their enemy a role in the new government.

Most observers feel President Joachim Chissano will win the presidential election and that Frelimo will gain the highest number of votes, although the former rebel group Renamo may get more votes than expected.

The power of the hardliners was demonstrated in the wrangling over whether Mandela should meet Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama. Although Mozambican officials were aware the meeting was scheduled, they made strenuous efforts to encourage Mandela to change his mind, fearing the meeting would boost Renamo's chances in the election (whereas the whole trip was intended to boost Frelimo).

Typically, Mandela insisted that a meet-

ing with Dhlakama would be "proper" and went ahead. The fallback position of the anti-meeting faction was that he should not pose for photographers with the Renamo leader, but Mandela resisted this too.

More significantly, in the presence of no less than eight African heads of state, he refused to sign a document establishing the African Foundation of Investigation and Development which was the main function of the Presidential Forum for Science Led Development in Africa. Although, he expressed support for the idea, he implicitly chastised his fellow African leaders for signing verbose accords they had not carefully thought out and did not intend to apply in both letter and spirit.

The same point was made explicitly by Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni. He quoted statistics on the poor rate of scientists in Africa, but added "Africa specialises in miserable statistics. We are the world leaders in miserable statistics".

Copy and apply

Why were scientists so concerned with R&D (research and development), he asked. Shouldn't they be more concerned with C&A (copy and apply). He implicitly censured the sonorous speeches of his fellow leaders by saying he was always suspicious of grand-sounding phrases. "When I was in the bush, my generals would come to me and say they intended to attack with ferocity and sustain the attack".

"But our enemies have airplanes and tanks and we have only guns," he would reply. "How exactly do you intend attacking ferociously and sustaining the attack against airplanes?" Pomp and ceremony were all very well, but the point was to detail the specifics.

Mandela and Museveni both belong to the second generation of African leaders. Their styles contrast vividly with the old, possibly proving that a stronger wind of change is blowing through Africa now than that spotted by British prime minister Harold Macmillan three decades ago.