

Diplomatic ties with Mozambique forged

MAPUTO. — South Africa's first ambassador to Mozambique has pledged to build strong links between the two formerly hostile neighbours.

"Mozambique and South Africa are two of the most important members of the southern African community. Therefore it is appropriate for us to enjoy good and strong bilateral relations," Ambassador John Sunde said after presenting his credentials to President Joaquim Chissano on Friday.

Mr Sunde is the first ambassador named to one of the six Frontline states that combined in opposition to South Africa during the apartheid era.

Pretoria is expected to name ambassadors to Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe when a government of national unity takes office.

Mr Sande promised an exchange of technology and South African training for Mozambicans and said commercial relations would be consolidated and expanded.

Diplomatic relations were resumed in October last year. Mr Chissano was invited for the May 10 inauguration in Pretoria of the new president. — Sapa-Reuter