

Minister affirms pact with Maputo

Herald Reporter

THE first Mozambique ambassador to Zimbabwe, Cde Rafael Benedito Afonso Maguni left Harare yesterday for home after being here for six years.

He was the dean of the diplomatic corps. He arrived in Zimbabwe on January 2 1980 to establish an observation office before the April election of that year which led to the formation of the Zanu (PF) Government.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cde Witness Mangwende, held a farewell luncheon on Tuesday at which he said Cde Maguni had performed his duties admirably.

"As the first born of all ambassadors in Zimbabwe, he also had, as the doyen of the diplomatic corps, to be the spokesman of the other diplomats, to present ideas and proposals, some of which he himself may not have necessarily agreed with," Cde Mangwende said.

"History, geography, culture, identical policies and aspirations are all intertwined to bind our sister republics and peoples. Your country is our neighbour through which our landlocked country has the most economic access to the sea, under normal and peaceful con-



AT THE AIRPORT: "I go home a happy man," Mozambique's outgoing ambassador, Cde Rafael Maguni, said yesterday at Harare Airport. Cde Maguni is going to Manica province as governor and he yesterday commended the diplomatic corps in Harare for "working as one".

ditions," the minister said.

It was in line with the two countries' commitment to peace, justice, and equality of states that they could never compromise in their demand for the liberation of Namibia and South Africa.

"For this commitment to principle, our two peoples have shed their blood to achieve their own freedom, and today we are defending it resolutely as the Pretoria regime desperately seeks to destabilise both our two countries and other neighbouring states in this region,"

Cde Mangwende said.

Cde Maguni said: "I was greatly honoured indeed when I was appointed the first Mozambican ambassador to Zimbabwe."

He said he had witnessed Zimbabwe grow in strength during his term of office and that Cde Mugabe was one of Africa's greatest statesmen.

Cde Maguni said his country would continue to support the struggling peoples of Namibia and South Africa. "Peace can only come to this region if apartheid is eradicated forever."

He will take up office as the new governor of Manica province in Mozambique which shares a common border with Zimbabwe's Manicaland Province. The Manica provincial capital of Chimio was connected to the Zimbabwean liberation struggle because many of the country's heroes were buried there after being massacred by the enemy.

Earlier, Cde Maguni bade farewell to President Banana at the State House where he was told that Mozambique was regarded the same as Zimbabwe.

"We never look on Mozambique as another country, we feel we are just one people so when you serve Manica province, you do so on our behalf," Cde Banana said.