

# Mugabe, Machel hold talks

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**UMTALI** — Zimbabwe Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe and President Samora Machel of Mozambique yesterday discussed security along their common border and Zimbabwe's alternative trade routes to the sea.

Informed sources said the one-day summit was called at short notice. There was no immediate official announcement on

the meeting being held at the secluded government estate near here.

Zimbabwe is trying to reduce its economic dependence on South Africa through which 90 per cent of its trade passes. Mozambique offers shorter and quicker routes.

But, diplomatic sources say, the railway lines to

the Mozambique ports of Maputo and Beira are threatened by the rebel Mozambique Resistance Movement. The sources say MRM is South African-backed.

Mr Mugabe has accused South Africa of seeking to destabilise neighbouring black African states to keep them economically dependent. — SAPA-RNS.