

Duty hampers trade with Mozambique

Staff Reporter

PROSPECTS for increased trade between Zimbabwe and Mozambique are being hampered by high import duties charged by the latter, a top industry official has said.

Mr Mike Humphreys, ZimTrade's trade development director, said Zimbabwe had only received \$250 000 out of \$10 million worth of orders that were placed by Mozambican businessmen at a Sales Expo held in Beira last October. He said this was due to high import duties charged by the Mozambican authorities.

The goods that were ordered include shoes, clothes, stoves and agricultural implements. "As a new member of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), Mozambique has been allowed to charge the same import duties for PTA goods as for those from overseas and this has not given our local producers a competitive advantage," said Mr Humphreys.

However, some Zimbabwean goods can be easily obtained in Mozambique through unofficial border shopping which does not involve the payment of import duty. "This means that the formal sector is competing with their own goods in Mozambique," said Mr Humphreys.

However, Mr Humphreys said fresh attempts to open new markets in Mozambique had been successful.