

Addresses Beira Port Rally

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[Text] President Mugabe has reiterated his message of unity, close cooperation and friendship between the people of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Addressing thousands of people at a rally in Beira, Comrade Mugabe said Zimbabweans and Mozambicans belong to one family and will remain so forever. The president said it is only a question of time before the South African-sponsored bandits are eliminated. Comrade Mugabe called on all Mozambicans to rally behind President Chissano and Frelimo in their efforts to wipe out banditry. He also urged them to be more vigilant and united in order to sustain their hard-won independence and freedom.

Earlier on, Comrade Mugabe was taken on a conducted tour of the Beira port. Greeting Comrade Mugabe, the director of the Beira Corridor Authority, Comrade Rui Fonseca, said traffic had increased considerably as a result of the rehabilitation program of the Beira port system. He disclosed that between 1986 and last year the total traffic volume went up by 46 percent, from 1.35 million tons to about 2 million tons. During the same period, exports from Zimbabwe through the port increased from 90,000 to 160,000 tons, while import went up by 25 percent.

Comrade Fonseca also told President Mugabe that the process of deepening the Beira entrance channel to 8.2 metres will shortly be under way. The deepening of the channel will permit entrance to tankers of up to 60,000 tons to the Port of Beira, which will double the actual maximum ship size. On [words indistinct] Comrade Fonseca said the first stage of the rehabilitation of the Beira-Machipanda line has been completed.