



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PRETORIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 23 April 2012

Australian assistance to Mozambique delivered under new bilateral MOU

Mozambique remains a high priority development partner for Australia following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Australian and Mozambique Governments earlier this year. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Oldemiro Baloi and former Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd signed the agreement in January 2012 in Addis Ababa. Australian High Commissioner to Mozambique, Ann Harrap, is currently in Maputo to progress implementation of the MOU.

According to Ms Harrap “the signing of the MOU represents another important milestone in the growing Australia-Mozambique partnership.”

“One of the key elements of the MOU relates to education and training. Building Mozambique’s human resource capacity is critical to its long-term development and Australia is keen to help through an expanded scholarships program that offers opportunities for post-graduate study in Australia,” Ms Harrap said.

In 2012, Mozambique has received 35 short-term and Masters-level scholarships (Australia Awards). Approximately 30 candidates will be interviewed for Masters-level scholarships in May this year. The Australia Awards provide emerging leaders and mid-career professionals with opportunities for research, study, and professional development opportunities with Australian institutions and organisations.

“Past Australian scholarship recipients are now holding very senior positions in Mozambique which is a testament to the impact of the program,” Ms Harrap said. “In the health sector, the Vice Minister, Permanent Secretary and the National Director of Health all studied at Australian universities. They have come back to Mozambique and are making a substantial contribution to the country’s development.”

Australia is also working with the Mozambican Government to help develop the mining sector in a way that will support progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Australia is supporting the development of regional planning processes for resource rich areas in Mozambique. The aim is to encourage collaboration between investors and government in the planning, prioritisation and future co-financing of major infrastructure investment activities.

Australia is also working closely with the Ministry of Mineral Resources in support of the Ministry’s efforts to strengthen its capacity to manage the minerals sector. Australia has committed over AUS\$1 million to this work, which has included supporting 36 officials to undertake mining governance study tours and training in Australia during 2011 and 2012.

The Australian Government’s mining sector assistance builds on the significant engagement by Australian mining companies. Today, Australian minerals and resource companies have more projects in Africa than in any other region of the world. Total current and projected investment is estimated to be well over US\$50 billion. At present there are some 14 Australian companies, involved in 26 projects, active in Mozambique. These include BHP-Billiton, Rio Tinto, Riversdale, Talbot Resources and Baobab Resources. Mozambique is Australia’s second largest trading partner in Africa.

For further information, please contact Third Secretary Natalie Mendelsohn,
natalie.mendelsohn@dfat.gov.au or +27 83 409 3619