

# TAX COMPELS YACHTSMEN TO SEEK SPONSORS

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**THE Government sales tax on imported racing yachts was forcing yachtsmen to find sponsors for their vessels and had led to an inevitable amount of commercialism and advertising, Durban yachtsmen said last night.**

The yachtsmen were commenting on a decision by the Cape-to-Rio race committee to allow the yachts to carry trade emblems on their sails.

"This commercialism goes against the grain of the true yachtsman, but if we are to compete on level terms with the crack overseas boats we must resort to it.

## CRIPPLING

"The sales tax on racing boats is crippling the efforts of South African owners in ocean-going races, unless they have a wealthy sponsor behind them.

"The smaller men must perforce seek other sponsorship which, in turn, leads to advertising.

"After all, if a chap is going to sponsor a yacht he is entitled to expect the vessel to at least mention his firm's name."

## EMBLEM

"Personally, however, I cannot see what good carrying an emblem or slogan is going to do in the middle of the Atlantic."

Another yacht owner said there were no shipbuilding firms in the country which "can come anywhere near building the wonderful yachts we have to import from overseas."

He also condemned the

sales tax and added: "Many laymen have the erroneous impression that all yachtsmen are wealthy. This is not so.

Often a skipper has put nearly all his money into his vessel. He has not such a lot to play around with."