

## Fate of 2 SA yachtsmen in Maputo to be decided soon

JOHANNESBURG—Mozambican authorities will soon decide on the release of two South African yachtsmen who are being detained in the Maputo harbour on their yacht, SABC radio news reports.

The South African trade representative in Maputo, Mr Dawid Laubscher, said the Mozambican Minister of Co-operation and the Deputy Minister of Transport would personally investigate the matter.

Mr Laubscher said the crew members, accused of having plundered copper from shipwrecks in Mozambican waters, will be afforded an op-

portunity of putting their case to maritime authorities in Maputo today.

He said the Mozambican Minister of Co-operation indicated yesterday that once the crew had put their case to the maritime authorities a decision would be taken on whether to charge them.

Mr Laubscher said the two men were the captain of the yacht, Mr Alan Ubsdell, and the engineer, Mr Neil Harvey. The two men, and 10 others, were arrested after diving on a shipwreck on Sunday.

He said five of the 12 divers were still in Maputo. Five others are

back in South Africa.

A Durban maritime law expert, Captain Roy Martin, said divers wishing to remove objects from abandoned wrecks around the South African coast had to be in possession of a permit from the Department of Customs and Excise.

He said they had to pay 15 per cent of the value of objects removed, as well as any applicable duty if the artefacts were brought ashore. In cases where the wreck's owners were known, their permission would have to be obtained.

He said similar laws probably prevailed in other countries' waters. —Sapa