

BLAST CUTS RAIL LINK TO MAPUTO

Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG. -- An explosion has destroyed 800 metres of railway, cutting the line between Komatipoort and Maputo. Seven train trucks were derailed in the blast, 40 kilometres north-west of Maputo.

In a broadcast monitored in Johannesburg, Radio Mozambique did not mention casualties and added that the line should be repaired by tomorrow.

Aim, the Mozambican news agency, said another Mozambique Resistance mine exploded on Monday on the Limpopo railway line in the southern province of Gaza, destroying a bridge.

The sabotage of the Komatipoort-Maputo railway line coincides with the visit to Nelspruit today of the director of Maputo port, Dr Ildio Diniz. He is expected to address businessmen on the use of the port of Maputo.

The line was also sabotaged on September 24.

Warning

The MNR rebels in Mozambique today warned the West that it would be impossible to restore normal railway operations until the end of the war between it and the ruling Frelimo.

The European director of MNR, Mr Paulo d'Oliveira, said no railway in the country would be repaired until the end of the war.

● Zimbabwe's security chiefs, including the Minister of State for Defence and Security and the army commander, are holding talks in Maputo.

There is speculation that Zimbabwe, which has about 12 000 troops in Mozambique, may be about to reinforce its garrisons in an effort to halt the MNR offensive.

Yesterday Zimbabwean Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe and President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia met at the Victoria Falls following the weekend meeting in Maputo of the heads of the frontline states, at which South African threats of military action against states harbouring the ANC were debated.

Documents

● A dossier of documentary evidence of Malawian support for Mozambican rebels handed to President Hastings Banda last month contained a copy of a letter from the MNR leader, Alfonso Dhlakama, detailing weapons, ammunition and other support required from Malawi.

This allegation is made in an article today in Zimbabwe's main newspaper, The Herald.

It claims that Mozambican officials produced the dossier at the meeting in Sanjika Palace in Blantyre when Dr Banda was confronted by President Samora Machel, President Kaunda and Mr Mugabe.

The article dealt mainly with the theory that Dr Banda was supporting the Mozambican rebels because he wanted 'to see the creation of a "great Malawi" encompassing northern Mozambique and giving Malawi its own port at Ncala.

Meanwhile Malawi has again issued a statement denying it allows MNR rebels to operate from its territory.