

Surrender by 400 MNR bandits

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AT LEAST 400 armed MNR bandits have given themselves up to the authorities since the Mozambican parliament approved an amnesty law in December, an official source said on Monday.

Up to 20 March, the source said, 222 bandits had completed the process of registration. The source was referring to the data of the central co-ordinating commission for the implementation of the amnesty law.

"Many more other bandits have not yet filled in all the forms."

After March 21, a brigade of the commission, working in the southern province of Gaza, reported that 19 other bandits had given themselves up in that province. The source said that these had not yet been included in the preliminary data of the central commission, which cover only those who have been registered.

According to preliminary data, the provinces of Manica and Zambezia are the two where most MNR bandits have given themselves up.

The source confirmed rumours that many bandits are not giving themselves up directly to the authorities, but hiding their weapons in the bush and mixing with displaced groups of peasants before identifying themselves to the authorities.

Zana-Aim-Pana.