

# Troops warned against relaxing vigilance

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**Herald Reporter**  
ZIMBABWE National Army troops guarding the Limpopo Corridor, one of Zimbabwe's economic lifelines to the Indian Ocean through the Mozambican capital, Maputo, have been warned against relaxing their vigilance against enemy attack.

Addressing the troops on the corridor this week during a visit to assess the security situation following the partial ceasefire agreement signed by the Mozambican government and MNR bandits in Rome last year, the ZNA Chief of Staff (General), Major-General Vitalis Gava Zvinvashe, said:

"Let me warn you that the conflict (the civil war in Mozambique) is not over yet. Frelimo and Renamo have not signed a ceasefire agreement, so you must be vigilant and be prepared to react to enemy actions without delay."

The Rome Accord, signed on December 1 last year, called for the withdrawal of Zimbabwean troops from the rest of Mozambique into the Beira and Limpopo corridors as a move towards the cessation of hostilities between the MNR bandits and the Frelimo government.

Under the agreement, the bandits pledged to halt attacks on the two corridors while ZNA troops op-

erating along the corridors were now confined to within 3 km of the road, rail and powerline corridor.

Accompanied by senior staff officers from the army, the Central Intelligence Organisation and the Air Force, Gen Zvinvashe visited the troops deployed at various points along the corridor. He told the troops that it was in the interest of Zimbabwe to observe the Rome Accord terms but, however, urged them to react to enemy actions without delay.

Briefing the major-general, Commander of 1 Brigade on the corridor, Colonel Misheck Tanyanyiwa, said bandit activities had been reduced greatly since the Rome Accord.

However, the bandits had violated the agreement on five occasions along the Limpopo Corridor, said Col Tanyanyiwa, adding that the Joint Verification Committee had been notified of the incidents.

Set up to supervise the implementation of the accord and to ensure the ceasefire was not violated, the JVC also includes three members each from Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Renamo as well as their members or envoys with the Italian government.

The mediators are the Catholic Archbishop of Beira, the Most Rev Jaime Goncalves, and representatives of the Catholic Lay Charity, the Santo Egidio Community in

whose Rome headquarters the peace talks between the Mozambican government and Renamo were held.

Eight other countries agreed between the government and the bandits have seats on the commission. These are the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France, Portugal, Congo, Zambia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

MNR bandits attacked Nyamapanda, a north-eastern town on the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border at the beginning of this month, killing several civilians, a senior Mozambican army official has said.

According to a statement from the Zimbabwe National Army, the Mozambican Armed Forces (FAM) Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Hama Thai, told Maj-Gen Zvinvashe that the bandits had attacked the town and killed innocent civilians.

The two senior officers of the ZNA and FAM met at Chokwe on the Limpopo Corridor and discussed the security situation in Mozambique, particularly on the Limpopo and Beira corridors on which Zimbabwean troops are deployed since the signing of the December Rome Accord last year between the Mozambican government and MNR bandits.

The ZNA's statement did not give more details on the number of casualties.