

# Fear of MNR raids on border

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**DESPITE** the lull in MNR bandit raids into Zimbabwe, the people of Mudzi district are not taking chances and those close to the border continue to take refuge in schools during the night for protection by the army.

At the same time the local Zanu (PF) leadership is pressing ahead with plans to set up a militia unit to complement efforts by the security forces in fending off attacks by the MNR bandits.

At dusk each day villagers can be seen balancing their bedding on their heads and trekking to schools or business centres for the night.

"We are not taking any chances. Matsanga (MNR bandits) can come in any time," one villager said last week while preparing his bed at Nyamuyaruka business centre about 7 km from the border.

The bandits have not attacked the area since December last year although there have been attacks close to the Zimbabwe border inside Mozambique, sometimes with projectiles landing on the Zimbabwe side.

It is not clear whether the MNR has completely ceased forays into Zimbabwe because of the partial ceasefire agreement it reached with the Mozambican government last December.

In that agreement, the bandits undertook not to attack Zimbabwe or its troops in Mozambique provided they were confined to the Beira and Limpopo corridors and that they withdrew from the Tete route. Zimbabwe has complied with the agreement.



**WOMEN and children sleep in the open at Nyamuyaruka business centre in Mudzi. Villagers close to the border still leave their homes during the night for fear of attacks by MNR bandits.**