

SA-Maputo train mined

Sowetan

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MAPUTO - A goods train travelling from South Africa to Maputo hit a mine placed on the tracks and burst into flames, according to Mozambican authorities.

A spokesman for Mozambique Railways southern division told the daily newspaper, Noticias the ambush took place about four kilometres from the border town of Ressano Garcia on Monday. The train was carrying a cargo of coal.

All crew members escaped unharmed, but the damage to the train is said to be severe. It was still burning by nightfall.

The railways spokesman could not speculate about who had laid the mines, but it is believed to be the work of Renamo, which has frequently ambushed trains along the Maputo-South Africa line.

Meanwhile military authorities claim to have killed nine members of a Renamo gang who attacked a convoy last Friday in Tete province.

The convoy, consisting of 170 trucks, mainly from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Malawi was travelling along the Tete corridor, the road linking Zimbabwe to Malawi that runs through the province.

In the ambush the raiders killed

two Mozambican soldiers, and wounded six civilians, including a Zimbabwean driver.

In June this year Renamo leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama pledged that trucks using the Tete corridor would not be attacked, in accordance with an agreement signed in Rome last December.

Until December last year, convoys in the corridor were defended by units of the Zimbabwe national army, but under the Rome agreement all the Zimbabweans were withdrawn from Tete.

The authorities have also announced that the death toll in Saturday's raid against the Maputo sub-

urb of Zona Verde has risen from seven to 11. Four more people died in hospital.

A band of unidentified armed men surrounded a group of local residents who were enjoying themselves at stalls selling food and drink. The raiders opened fire indiscriminately, and then looted the stalls.

The owner of one of the stalls said he could not understand how raiders could attack with impunity "because just 300 metres away there are barracks which under normal circumstances should have responded to the raid". - *Sowetan Africa News Service*
