

MNR hinders work on Nacala Corridor

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MAPUTO.

MNR bandits are continuing to hinder work on upgrading the Nacala Corridor, the railway that links the northern Mozambican port of Nacala to landlocked Malawi.

Cde Oscar Monteiro, the engineer who heads the upgrading work, told yesterday's issue of the Maputo daily Noticias that bandits tried to hold up the work by attacking supply trains, and by sabotaging the newly-laid track.

On February 18, bandits had attacked a locomotive carrying material for the upgrading of the line, and had wounded two members of its military escort. On the same day, there was a raid against the

town of Namina, where the rehabilitation brigades are headquartered.

Cde Monteiro said that the most recent case of sabotage was on February 25, when a stretch of track at Nassaruma, in Meconta district, east of Nampula city, was blown up.

Currently, track is being relaid at a rate of about 15 km a month, and the brigades, working westwards, are now about 176 km from Nampula.

The project is running behind schedule. It was held up for over 2½ years, from 1988 until 1990, due to security problems. There

was another interruption, lasting about a month, at the start of this year because of a shortage of fuel that affected the whole of Nampula Province.

Meanwhile, a gang of MNR bandits attacked the neighbourhood of Mafarinha, on the outskirts of the town of Dondo, in the central Mozambican province of Sofala, in a pre-dawn raid on Tuesday, according to another report in Noticias.

The raiders killed a junior officer of the Mozambican armed forces, and kidnapped four young women. One person was seriously injured, and is currently undergoing hospital treatment in Beira. — Ziana-Pana.