

Bandits told to take peace offer seriously

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THE redeployment of Zimbabwean troops to the two transport corridors in Mozambique is a gesture of peace to the MNR but should the bandits not take the offer seriously, the Mozambican Armed Forces, FAM, are ready for anything, the FAM's provincial commissars have said.

"We want to show Renamo (Portuguese acronym for MNR) that it is better to solve our problems in a diplomatic way," Major Boniface Macamo, the provincial commissar for Tete Province, said in an interview in Chimoio last week.

"There are not many Zimbabweans in Mozambique. The withdrawal of the ZNA to the corridors may be a way of solving the problem between Renamo and Frelimo . . . but as an army we are prepared for anything," Maj Macamo said, speaking through an interpreter.

He was accompanied during the interview by Major Pedro Lima, the provincial commissar of the Zambezia Province and Lieutenant George Cuamba, the chief of the propaganda department in the Mozambican Armed Forces' 3 Brigade.

The redeployment of the Zimbabwean troops to the Beira and Limpopo corridors was the only item agreed in peace negotiations between the Mozambican government and the MNR bandits in Rome.

Once the troops, who now number less than eight battalions, are confined to the transport corridors, the two parties will negotiate a general ceasefire to end the war.

Zimbabwean troops who were stationed in Mozambique have redeployed completely into the Beira and Limpopo corridors a week ahead of the deadline, reports the Zimbabwe National Army, according to Ziana.