

MNR violate pact for third time in a week

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MAPUTO:

MNR bandits have violated the December 1990 agreement with the Mozambican government for the third time in a week, Radio Mozambique reported yesterday.

On Thursday, the bandits sabotaged the Limpopo railway line linking Zimbabwe to the port of Maputo, by setting fire to 200 timber sleepers at Ingubana, 114 km north of Maputo, leading to the suspension of traffic along the line, the radio added.

The radio quoted a spokesman for Mozambique Railways as saying that rail officials had noticed the sabotage on Thursday afternoon, but did not know at what time the bandits had burnt the sleepers.

Last week on Friday, the bandits burnt sleepers along a 50 m stretch of track between the towns of Magude and Manhica.

On Monday, bandits opened fire on a train carrying a maintenance brigade between Magude and

Chokwe: the train did not stop and no one was injured in the attack.

The December agreement, under which the bandits pledged not to attack either of the two rail lines linking Zimbabwe to the Mozambican coast, known as the Limpopo and Beira corridors.

Under that agreement, all Zimbabwean forces were to be restricted to the two corridors.

However, the bandits claimed that Zimbabweans, disguising themselves as Mozambican troops, are still stationed at no less than 52 places outside the corridors, in seven of Mozambique's 11 provinces, although the rebels have not produced evidence.

The international Joint Verification Commission (JVC), that is monitoring implementation of the agreement, has investigated eight of the places named by the bandits and has found no sign of any Zimbabweans. — Ziana-Pana.