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Mozambique tells SA: Honour our agreement

Sunday Mail Reporter
SOUTH AFRICA must start observing the terms of the Nkomati agreement or it will endanger the March accord, the Mozam-

bican Minister of Information, Cde Jose Luis Cabaco, said in Harare yesterday.

The Mozambican minister, who arrived here on Friday from Tanzania, told The Sunday Mail during an interview that

his country had explained to South Africa that if there was no progress on halting violence by MNR bandits there would be no reason for the agreement to continue in force.

"We think Nkomati was an exercise in the interests of both governments, but we now think that if there is no result, then there is no reason for us to keep this agreement and that is the view we have expressed to South Africa. They showed no interest in implementing their part of the Nkomati agreement."

Cde Cabaco, who left Harare last night for Maputo, said this had been made clear to South Africa at the Pretoria talks 12 days ago, which were attended by the Mozambican Minister for Economic Affairs, Major-General Jacinto Veloso.

The first public result of the March accord should have been the cessation of violence by MNR bandits, but since the conclusion of the agreement South Africa had merely stopped what the minister said was "official" intervention and violation of airspace, coastal and territorial waters, ceased communication from Phalaborwa to command the activities of the bandits operating in Mozambique and broadcasting propaganda from South Africa.

"So the official or open participation of South Africa has been stopped but the problem is that they have not implemented the principle of dismantling the groups and exerting efforts to stop the groups."

Cde Cabaco also said some forces inside South Africa continued to give support to the bandits. He would not identify which forces these were but said a joint commission had started meeting last week. "It is an exercise that must go step by step."

Explaining the points of the October 3 declaration read in Pretoria, Cde Cabaco said that the recognition of President Samora Machel as President of the People's Republic of Mozambique spelt out in the declaration was important because this is a position that evolves from the country's "specific constitution".

The second issue had referred to the stopping of the violence and he said a ceasefire was out of the question.

"We will never, under any circumstances, accept the principle of a ceasefire because no country in the world can accept a ceasefire or stop fighting banditry. The word ceasefire is an attempt by the international Press to change the essence of the October 3 declaration."