

Food aid convoy ambushed by Renamo

Renamo ambushed and wrecked a convoy of five food aid trucks in the central province of Zambezia, according to a statement issued on 16 September by Mozambique's national executive commission for the emergency (CENE):

The ambush took place on 12 September, but the Zambezia provincial emergency commission only sent the information to CENE's Maputo headquarters on 16 September.

The five trucks, all owned by the country's relief agency, the disasters control office (DPCNN), were carrying maize and beans destined for displaced people in the coastal locality of Macuse.

The trucks were ambushed when they were 55 kilometres from the

provincial capital of Quelimane. No fatalities were reported in the ambush, but one DPCNN driver is wounded, and is currently undergoing hospital treatment. The five trucks were all set on fire, but only one is reckoned to be beyond repair.

The provincial emergency commission said the convoy had a military escort but gave no information as to whether the escort had tried to defend the convoy.

There are estimated to be 55,000 people in need of freely distributed food aid in Macuse and other parts of Namacurra district.

The loss, temporary or permanent, of five of its vehicles will make it still more difficult for the Zambezia branch of the DPCCN to deliver food aid.

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