

Victims tell of robbery by alleged MNR bandit

Crime Reporter

THE trial of an alleged MNR bandit continued in the High Court in Harare yesterday when three witnesses described how they were robbed at gunpoint by John Mataveya (22).

A bus conductor from the Chipinge area told the court that he threw his money bag at Mataveya out of fear after the accused fired two shots — one into the ground and the other in the air.

He said the bus driver called him to bring the money because "somebody" was demanding it.

The bus conductor said he identified the accused at an identification parade held by the police in Chipinge.

Mr Bruno Mugabe, for Mataveya, put it to the conductor that he had just picked on the accused because the

police expected him to pick someone on the parade. But the bus conductor denied this saying he was certain of the identification.

A storekeeper at Clearwater Estate in Chipinge said he was robbed of money from the store, goods, blankets and clothes, including those he was wearing on May 13 last year.

An armed man robbed him at gunpoint. The stolen goods were worth about \$426 of which \$200 was in

cash.

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At the identification parade the storekeeper picked the wrong man, but he identified the stolen goods, the court heard.

Asked why he picked the wrong man, he said he did not have enough time to study the accused's face when he robbed the store because Mataveya threatened to assault him each time he tried to look at his face.

The hearing continues today.