

Yacht drama ends in capture for SA family

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Renamo rebels are believed to have captured an East London family who were sailing along the Mozambique coast.

Mr David Muller, his wife Sandy and their two children, Tammy, eight, and Seth, five, sailed from East London in their yacht, which apparently ran aground south of Bazaruto island.

Yesterday Mr Muller's father, Mr Dick Muller of Port Elizabeth, said he had re-

ceived only unconfirmed reports of the capture.

"We were first told of this by friends in Johannesburg who read an article to the effect in a Transvaal newspaper," Mr Muller said.

"From what I can gather the family were allegedly captured by Renamo rebels while they were walking along the beach after the stranding of the yacht.

"We last heard from them from Maputo where they posted an undated postcard, saying everything was well with all, and now we get this shocking news," he said.

Mr Muller said they were supposed to meet friends at Bazaruto island, but they never arrived there.

"I just hope David will be able to recover his yacht when all is over. It is a treacherous part of sea to sail, it's very sandy and dangerous," said a worried Mr Muller.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs are waiting on news from the embassy, as well as from the trade representative in Maputo, but nothing has been confirmed yet," he said.

Mr David Muller is an architect who qualified from the University of Port Elizabeth.

His wife Sandy graduated from the University of Cape Town as a marine biologist.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday that it had not yet received confirmation that the family was being held.

A spokesman for the department said the trade representative in Maputo and the South African embassy in Lisbon had not been notified by the MNR of the incident.

The commodore of the East London Yacht Club, Mr Mac Vosloo, said the water around Bazaruto was very shallow, and yachtsmen had to stick to the channels around the island to ensure they did not run aground.