

Lull in

MNR



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attacks

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DESPITE the lull in MNR bandit raids into Zimbabwe, the people of Mudzi are still reluctant to return to the villages they abandoned at the height of the attacks.

"I will give the present lull in Renamo's banditry activities another three years before deciding on whether to return to our roots," said Cde Jane Saul Tembo.

Cde Tembo is one of the several villagers who fled their homes and settled in Jack's village which is close to the Harare - Nyamapanda highway.

The bandits have not attacked the area since December last year but the people still prefer living under congested conditions with no proper sanitary facilities at Jack's village.

The bandits began their attacks about three years ago forcing villagers from Goronga to flock to schools every evening where they got protection from the army and police.

"We only pray that the lull will hold and that the current peace initiatives between the Mozambican government and the MNR will lead to permanent peace," said Cde Tembo.

Mudzi district council chairman and councillor for Goronga Ward, Cde Tendekayi Mudzimu, said efforts were being made through regular meetings to encourage the people to return to their villages.

By going back to their former villages, said Cde Mudzimu, the villagers would then be in a position to carry out meaningful agricultural activities.

Some of the villagers found no point in returning because they no longer had the equipment with which to till their land.

Thousands of dollars worth of property including farming implements and livestock was lost by some of the villagers at the height of the bandit attacks.