

MNR resume attacks on railways

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MAPUTO.

WHILE delegations from the Mozambican government and MNR are negotiating in Rome, the bandits have resumed attacks on Mozambican railways, with two virtually identical ambushes on trains within the space of two days.

On Thursday, according to a report in yesterday's edition of the Maputo daily Noticias, MNR attacked a goods train travelling from Swaziland to Maputo at a spot 26 kilometres west of the Mozambican capital.

The train hit a remote-controlled mine shortly after midday, and then bandits hidden nearby opened fire with light arms and bazookas.

The locomotive suffered slight damage, but MNR failed to derail the train, which was carrying 1 200 tonnes of assorted Swazi cargo for export through the port of Maputo.

On Wednesday they attacked a goods train travelling from South Africa to Maputo, which was carrying 1 800 tonnes of

coal destined for Maputo's back-up coal and oil-fired power station.

Just four kilometres east of the South African border, the bandits ambushed the train, at about 7.30 in the morning, again first setting off a mine, and following this up with a bazooka attack.

Meanwhile, the general director of Mozambique Railways, Mr Mario Dimande, has travelled to the northern city of Nampula in an attempt to settle a strike by about 1 000 railway workers

which is paralysing the country's northern rail network.

Mr Dimande arrived in Nampula on Thursday, and immediately met with the provincial government, but nothing was announced publicly on the content of these discussions.

Mr Dimande has promised that he will meet the workers to hear their complaints, but he has already described their main demand, for a 100 percent wage rise, as "absurd". — Ziana-Pana.