

Mozambique army captures MNR battalion chief

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MAPUTO.

THE Mozambican armed forces (FPLM) have captured a "battalion commander" of the South African-backed MNR bandits in the central province of Sofala, according to an article in the latest issue of the

FPLM magazine "25 de Setembro".

The captured bandit, Namo Magoro, had been active in the MNR for almost 10 years. He told the magazine that although he was born in the Zimbabwean province of Manicaland, he was living on the other side of the border in the Mozambican district of Mavonde when he was recruited by the MNR in June 1978.

He said that many of the bandits who took part in the massive MNR offensive of 1985/86 in the Lower Zambezi Valley had received their first training at the same time as he had, in the Odzi camp in Ian Smith's Rhodesia.

The training inside the then Rhodesia lasted for six months, said Magoro, during which the MNR received direct support from South Africa, as well as from the illegal Smith regime.

Magoro was promoted to the rank of "battalion commander" in 1983, and was sent across the Za-

mbezi to attack the district of Mopeia in Zambezia Province.

"I set up a base in Cirima, in the interior of Mopeia," he recalled. He then sent part of his bandit group to attack an electricity sub-station at Chimwara on the centre-north power line from the Cahora Bassa Dam. They completely destroyed the sub-station.

It was also from Cirima, Magoro said, that the operation that culminated in the destruction of Mopeia town in mid-1985 was planned.

Magoro said that this offensive was preceded by the infiltration of South African specialists into Mozambique, who were organising the strategy to divide Mozambique in two along the line of the Zambezi.

Magoro recalled that both South African and Portuguese figures in the MNR leadership would appear at bandit bases inside the country, sometimes landing from South African helicopters. — ZIANA-ATM.