MNR BANDITS MURDER TWO

ONE of the survivors of the bandit attack, Cde Chishanu, re-lives the nightmare in which his mud-and-pole hut was riddled with MNR bandit bullets during an attack which claimed two lives in the Nyakatondo village, of Mount Darwin.

Sunday Mail Reporter

SOUTH AFRICAN-BACKED MNR bandits murdered a mother and her child and injured three other people when they attacked Nyakatondo village on the Mozambican border, in Mount Darwin.

The attack was carried out last Sunday evening barely a month after another MNR attack in the same region. Last month the bandits killed a father and his child while injuring the mother and another child, in Rushinga, before burning down the village.

In last week's incident, police identified the dead mother as Mrs Mativenga Nyarugwe (40) and her four-year-old son, Karorado Nyarugwe. Of the three people injured, one was a woman whose leg was broken by gunshots and the other two were children who had minor injuries.

One of the survivors, Cde Nisho Chishanhu, said the victims were Mozambicans who had sought a place to sleep for the night at his village. Only one of the injured children was his son.

Cde Chishanhu was sleeping in one of the huts when the attack started. Some of the bandits went for the hut in which the visitors were sleeping while the others attacked his hut.

"When I heard the noise outside, I quickly barricaded my door and leaned on it while at the same time shouting for help. They shouted, commanding me to open the door but, I refused.

"They started firing at the door but I never let go of it. About 10 bullets were fired through the door and I was shouting for help all the time. When I stopped shouting, the firing ceased because they thought I was dead," said Cde Chishanhu.

He said the attack took less than five minutes. In the other hut, the bandits shot down the door and charged into the hut, randomly shooting at everything. Bullet holes could be seen on the walls and poles in the hut.

A police spokesman said about four bandits had attacked the village. "It has been said that the bandits were being led by a Mozambican woman who was identifying, for them, homes where Mozambicans are staying.

The councillor for Nyakatondo village, Cde Raphel Pfebve, said there were 620 Mozambicans staying in the village who had fled from their country.

The Member of Parliament for the area, Cde Paddington Zvorwadza, appealed to the people to stop illegal border crossings in order to help the security forces identify the bandits.

In order to help improve the situation, said Cde Zvorwadza, all the displaced people should go to the refugee camps in Mazowe or Nyamatikiti. Most of the Mozambicans had moved into the abandoned homes in the area.

Speaking at the same occasion, the deputy District Administrator for Mukumbura, Mozambique, Cde Luciano Ndaluza Grau, said all the Mozambicans staying in the villages would be taken back home.

"If you want to stay here in Zimbabwe, you should go where you have been allocated places to stay in the camps. If you don't want to go back, we will take you back," said Cde Grau.