MNR lose control of district

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MULANJE (Malawi). Some 12 000 Mozambicans have fled into neighbouring Malawi since government troops seized the north-central Mulanje District from bandit control last week, Malawi's official news agency Mana said yesterday. Mozambique announced on Tuesday that the district had been retaken after being held by bandits since 1986.

Mana quoted eyewitnesses as saying the town fell last Thursday without resistance from MNR bandits.

It said the bandits fled in disarray, harassing civilians along the way.

The agency said the number of Mozambican refugees at Muloza border camp, in the southern Malawian district of Mulanje, had swollen to 22 000 as a result of the new influx. More continued to arrive at the rate of 2 000 a day. — Ziana-Mana.