

Outsiders still aiding MNR

MAPUTO.

THE MNR bandits are continuing to receive military equipment and logistical support from outside Mozambique, according to a report on the country's politicomilitary situation read to the Mozambican parliament, the People's Assembly, by Defence Minister Gen Alberto Chipande.

Gen Chipande said that the bandits "are continuing to use some neighbouring countries as a launching pad for combat actions inside Mozambican territory". They are infiltrating across the borders of these countries, he added, as well as by sea and air.

Gen Chipande noted that there had been a resurgence of banditry following the summit meeting between the Mozambican and South African presidents, Cde Joaquim Chissano and P. W. Botha, in September.

The bandits' foreign support, he said, meant that they possessed "a network of sophisticated communications equipment" through which they received instructions and transmitted information.

Gen Chipande stressed the need for better organisation, training and logistics in the Mozambican armed forces, and lamented the lack of available resources. Not only did Mozambique not produce its own weaponry, or communications equipment, but there were still serious insufficiencies as regard such basics as uniforms, boots, medicines and foodstuffs for the troops, he said.

Despite the difficulties, he continued, the FPLM had frustrated bandit attempts to cut the country in two along the line of the Zambezi River, and in 1988 had liberated several districts from MNR control. — Ziana-AIM.

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