

# MNR 'GENERAL' AMONG 50 KILLED

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**Herald Reporter**  
FOUR MNR bandit bases were destroyed and 50 bandits including a "general" were killed and hundreds of slaves freed in a recent major operation along the Mozambican border, by Zimbabwean troops backed by Air Force helicopters.

The Brigade magazine, The Elephant News, has reported that the operation involved all three battalions of 1 Brigade plus 3 Presidential Guard and 8 Amphibious Squadron, with support from 2 Para Battalion and the helicopters from the Air Force of

Zimbabwe's 7 Squadron.

The four bases which were sited some 15 km inside Mozambique, along the eastern border were Chikamba, Mapunga, Makoba and Ruya.

## Heavy fire

The commander of 1 Brigade, Brigadier Paradzai Zimonte, who commanded the operation, said the longest and probably the fiercest battle was fought at Ruya River where the troops took more than five hours to destroy the base.

"There was an exchange

of heavy fire for about an hour and we discovered that the base was heavily mounted and closely guarded due to the presence of a 'general' in it.

"I think the base was one of MNR's strongholds and the resistance faced by the troops during the fight clearly indicated that someone of a superior rank was inside."

The Ruya base was completely destroyed and burnt to ashes during the raid. Brigadier Zimonte said he believed the base was used by the bandits to commit atrocities along the north-

eastern border.

Brigadier Zimonte said many bandits were killed as they tried to escape with the body of the "general" and a large quantity of arms were recovered. The general was identified as Samuel.

## Commendation

He said their recent mop-up operation against the MNR had drastically reduced bandit activity along the border with Mozambique.

Brigadier Zimonte commended all troops who took

part in the operation for their boldness, skill and professional manner in which they launched the attacks.

The brigadier urged all Zimbabweans living along the eastern border to be vigilant and report all suspicious people. He assured them that troops were at their disposal should they come across such people or information regarding the MNR bandits in the area.

In another report, The Elephant News said 150 MNR bandits were captured by Zimbabwean troops in estates near Chipinge recently.