

Troops in Mozambique under fire from MP

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ZIMBABWE'S involvement in Mozambique's internal conflict has brought untold suffering among Zimbabweans living along its borders with that country and it is time the Government reconsidered the issue, Parliament heard yesterday.

Contributing to debate on the Presidential address, the Member of Parliament for Lupane, Cde Nkosembi Khumalo, said the people along the borders were going through an unforgettable time in their lives because of Zimbabwean troops' presence in Mozambique.

"I think that was a mistake. I appeal to His Excellency the President and his ministers to look

into this issue very closely so that we lessen the problems.

"This has created an unforgettable history due to the army that has been put in Mozambique," he said.

He said the army should have been sent to Mozambique just to guard the pipeline and the Beira Corridor as the conflict between the Mozambican government and the MNR was "an internal conflict".

In his contribution, the MP for Highfield West, Cde Richard Nyandoro, appealed to the Minister of Home Affairs, Cde Moven Mahachi, to consider an allowance for the Special Police Constabulary to cover food and transport costs.

He said their voluntary actions should not be at their expense and there

was need for Government assistance.

Cde Nyandoro said it was disappointing to note that the number of street-kids and blind people was increasing without a solution being found.

"Their population is increasing and I think it is time we provided a solution to this problem," he said.

The Mbare West MP, Cde Ephraim Masawi, also appealed to the Minister of Home Affairs to consider establishing provincial offices that could cater for deaths during holidays as it was expensive for families to wait for working days before burial.

He expressed concern at the "deplorable" accommodation for both police and army officers.

"Surely, we can do better than that," he said.