

Mozambican offensive against "bandits" in Inhambane (Excerpts) A Mozambican army offensive against South African-backed kizumba [hyena] bandits has swept through almost the entire province of Inhambane. According to the Provincial Military Commander, Maj-Gen Domingos Fondo, in recent weeks bandit camps have been destroyed in Mabote, Vilanculos, and Mambone in the north of the Province, and several other districts in the centre and southern part of the Province. They have also destroyed one in Jangamo next to the provincial capital. Gen Fondo was speaking at Saturday's [27th August] mass rally in the town of Maxixe. . . The rally was headed by a company of the Mozambican armed forces, which had just returned from a successful assault on bandit camps in Massinga district. The General displayed to the crowd two lorryloads of captured bandits. . . The fury of the crowd toward the bandits was such that a hail of sticks and stones rained down on the trucks containing the prisoners. The army had to intervene to save the captured bandits from the wrath of the crowd.

The Inhambane Provincial Governor, Jose Pascal Zandamela, said the bandits put on display were only a few of those neutralized in the Province. He promised that bandits who surrendered would be pardoned, but warned that there would be no clemency for those who persist in their criminal activities. (Maputo in English for abroad 1100 gmt 29 Aug 83)

During the meeting large quantities of war equipment captured by our forces, including 20 bicycles, eight sewing machines and five motorcycles, which had been stolen from the people, were also on show. The administrator of Vilanculos district, who presided over the meeting, called on members of the public to increase their vigilance even more and to participate actively in the fight against the armed bandits. (Maputo in Portuguese 1700 gmt 2 Sep 83)