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# PM on Mozambique <sup>9.9.85</sup> offensive

Herald Reporter

MOZAMBIQUE and Zimbabwe have gone on the offensive against the MNR bandits to eliminate them and save the need of defending roads, railways and pipeline, says the Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe.

He was commenting in a Press briefing on Saturday to Mozambique reports that joint operations had resulted in the capture of the MNR headquarters last month when a camp in the foothills of the Gorongosa moun-

tain was stormed.

"We would rather announcements were made from Maputo. But as I said recently in Parliament, we have a duty to go to the rescue of Mozambique when Mozambique is in trouble, just as Mozambique has a duty to come to our rescue when we are in trouble.

Zimbabwe was already, to the benefit of both countries, "protecting the infrastructure that services us: the pipeline, railway and road system

to Beira and the road system to Tete and Malawi".

"We decided that, rather than merely wait at the various points of these infrastructural lines to be attacked by the MNR bandits and then offer defence, we should go on to the offensive and try to eliminate, jointly with Mozambique, the bandits from the areas of Manica, Sofala and Tete."

The Prime Minister said it was not just a single operation. "We

have been at it for some time now. We decided (to do this) jointly with Mozambique before the elections, so soon after the elections we deployed more troops into Mozambique.

"And truly we have been capturing lots of camps, including the one about which there was the announcement, Gorongosa, which was the capital base of the MNR.

"It's gone now, never to come back again. We will ensure that these bandits are eliminated totally.

