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MNR raid rumours dismissed



ODE KADUNGURE

THE Minister of State (Defence), Ode Ernest Kadungure, yesterday dismissed as "rumours" reports by the British Broadcasting Corporation alleging that Zimbabwe lost a helicopter and 75 parachute men during the recent attack on the major bandit base in Mozambique.

Ode Kadungure was replying to Senator Terence Oatt, who had wanted confirmation on the reports he had monitored on the BBC soon after the capture of a bandit base in Mozambique on August 28 by joint forces of the two countries.

The minister said he could not divulge any details on the specific operations in Mozambique because the information was clas-

sified, Ziwa reports.

Zimbabwe's military operations in Mozambique were necessary for the prosperity of the country and not mere adventures, he said in reply to questions raised in debate on his ministry's vote for this financial year.

Ode Kadungure said the army was launching an offensive against Mozambican bandits to defend the pipeline and other vital installations effectively.

He said he was surprised to find OAZ senators having vested interest in defence matters when they created the Mozambican bandits and did not announce their Rhodesian operations publicly.

Brigadier John Probert had described the operations as military

adventurism and asked whether money had been set aside for this purpose.

Ode Kadungure said it pained him to have to answer such questions when members of the army were spending sleepless nights and risking their lives for the welfare of all the people in Zimbabwe while in Mozambique.

● The Mozambican armed forces killed seven MNR bandits in two separate incidents in the southern province of Inhambane on September 1, according to a report in yesterday's Noticias, AIM reports.

Bandits sabotaged two factories in the industrial suburb of Machava on the outskirts of Maputo on Tuesday night.