

# BANDITS FLEE TO SA AS KEY MNR BASE OVERRUN

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## MAPULANGUENE (Mozambique).

MNR bandits fled into South Africa when a major base near the border was overrun by the Mozambican armed forces on Saturday.

The base covered a large area of bush near Mapulanguene, in Maputo province, some 180 km north of the capital. It was 5 km from the South African border.

Saturday's attack on the MNR base was carried out by planes of the Mozambican air force, and ground units from the military commands of both Maputo and of the neighbouring province of Gaza.

About 30 bandits are known to have died in the attack. When reporters of the Mozambique News Agency visited the base 24 hours after its capture the bodies had not yet been buried.

The surviving bandits fled towards the border, carrying some of their dead and wounded with them. According to Mozambican officers who participated in the operation, troops pursued the MNR right up to the border. Near the border heavy fighting took place between the fleeing bandits and units of the Mozambican Frontier Guards.

At the base which had been set up by the MNR in 1984, the armed forces

set free some 80 people who had been forced to live with the bandits.

Elsewhere in Maputo province a further 10 bandits were killed in clashes on Friday and Saturday. A second MNR base was captured in Moamba district, near the site where an Italian consortium is building a major dam on the Save River. — Ziana-AIM.