

MNR running out of bullets

MAPUTO.

THE bandits of the Mozambique National Resistance in the southern province of Inhambane have lost their most important bases, and show signs of running out of ammunition.

According to the Inhambane provincial military commander, Major-General Domingos Fondo, the bandits now move at night and use axes, knives and machetes to kill defenceless civilians. He described the murders as "acts of despair".

Explaining the military strategy of the Mozambican armed forces in the province, Gen. Fondo said that "basic to our attacks against bandit camps has been the seizure of their water supplies".

Inhambane is an extremely dry province, with very few watercourses.

Access to water is thus crucial for the MNR.

Gen. Fondo said the situation in the province had improved dramatically thanks to successive army offensives. In 1982 Inhambane was the province worst affected by banditry.

The military situation turned in the government's favour from mid-1983 when the major South African base at Tome in northern Inhambane was destroyed. This was used to control MNR activities over the whole of southern Mozambique.

Now the province is calm and it is possible to travel safely along all the main Inhambane roads. Communal villages have sprung up in areas such as Malaica which were earlier dominated by MNR activity. — ZIANA-
AIM.