

MNR must be crushed Chitauro tells troops

Herald Reporter

CRUSHING the dissident scourge of the Mozambique National Resistance will bring great relief to Zambia and Malawi, who like Zimbabwe, have suffered from bandit activities, the

Secretary for Defence, Cde James Chitauro, said in Nyanga yesterday.

Reviewing a pass-out parade of 13 Infantry Battalion at the Battle School, Cde Chitauro said Zimbabwe's army and air force were fighting side by side with the Mozambican forces at the invitation of President Machel.

Zimbabwe was pleased at the call for assistance because that country gave Zimbabwe generous and vital support and encouragement during the liberation struggle. Rail and road routes for Zimbabwe's imports and exports as well as the oil pipeline would also be secured and dependence on South African routes would fall away.

Cde Chitauro said the MNR's aim was destroying for the sake of destroying and not from any altruistic desire to liberate anybody.

"The task may take some time to complete and battalions such as yourself will undoubtedly be called upon in turn to play a part in the battle for freedom from the destructive forces in Mozambique."

The 14-week training the soldiers had undergone required every officer and man to be 100 percent fit for the rigours of bush warfare and conventional combat.

The defence secretary told the soldiers that the enemy had to be faced by a confident and professional force.