

Lisbon is capital of bandits —Machel

MAPUTO.

PRESIDENT Samora Machel has criticised the Portuguese authorities for harbouring leaders of the Mozambique National Resistance.

Speaking at a rally on Christmas Eve in the central Mozambican city of Quelimane, President Machel described Lisbon as the capital of the bandits.

Ode Machel recalled the visits he made in September to the United States, Britain and Italy. These countries, he said, "do not support the bandits", and understood that Mozambique was the victim of a form of terrorism.

The only remaining problem among the Western countries was with Portugal, "and it's because of the apartment blocks", he said. President Machel was referring to the nationalisation of all rented property in Mozambique in 1976. The great majority of landlords whose property was taken over by the state were Portuguese, and Mozambican leaders have frequently stated that the real programme of the MNR is to recolonise Mozambique. Many of the Portuguese who support the MNR want to regain the factories and buildings they once owned.

The Quelimane rally was the final stage in a working visit to the province of Zambezia, during which President Machel also visited a recently-established military training centre where special units of crack troops are being prepared for the war against the MNR bandits. — Ziana-AIM.