

FORCES KILL 21 MNR BANDITS

ZIMBABWEAN security forces killed 21 South African-sponsored MNR bandits in a single battle after the rebels had abducted and murdered a number of Rushinga villagers in the country's north-east, the Home Affairs Minister, Cde Enos Nkala, has said.

The minister told ~~Parliament on Wednesday~~ that security forces had killed a bandit and captured two others in another encounter with a gang of five.

"Twenty AK rifles and various other war materials were captured. The capture of these bandits has now led to the discovery of considerable quantities of cached arms of war.

"A joint operations command has been set up in Rushinga for purposes of co-ordinating the activities of our security forces. Patrols along the border and within villages have appreciably stepped up," he said.

Similar arrangements have been made for the protection of the public in Manicaland and other parts of the country where MNR bandits occasionally harassed, assaulted, robbed and murdered innocent Zimbabweans, he said.

"We intend to keep our deployments at the increased level and I can assure you that the situation is completely under control," said Cde Nkala.

A substantial number of extra personnel drawn from other parts of the country, including specialist units from the police and other branches of the security forces, have been deployed in the area, said the minister.

— Ziana.

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