

MNR attacks on clinics harm health care

MAPUTO. -- Rebel attacks on health facilities have deprived about two million of Mozambique's 11 million inhabitants of health care, the Health Ministry said yesterday.

The Mozambique National Resistance, fighting to overthrow Mozambique's Marxist government, destroyed 211 health posts and clinics between 1982 and 1986, and looted or forced the closure of another 374, said Mr Inusse Noormahomed, national director of manpower at the Health Ministry.

By the end of last year only 17 doctors were

working in rural hospitals, meaning one doctor for every 443 000 people, compared with one for 160 000 in 1981; before the MNR offensive began, Mr Noormahomed told Aim, the national news agency.

He said the number of people entering hospitals with war wounds had risen from 53 a month in 1981 to a present average of 382.

Mr Noormahomed said 84 000 children died last year of diseases which could easily have been avoided but for the war.
— Sapa-AP.

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