400 MNR bandits surrender — report

MAPUTO — At least 400 MNR bandits have surrendered to government authorities since the Mozambican parliament approved an amnesty last December, according to the Mozambique Information Agency.

Preliminary information showed that most of the bandits who have given themselves up are from the provinces of Manica and Zambezia.

Many of them did not give themselves up directly but hid their weapons in the bush and mixed themselves with displaced groups of peasants. They later identified themselves and surrendered.

Another report said government forces killed 12 bandits in Inhambane province on March 10.

Meanwhile, UNESCO is to take part in the emergency aid programme for Mozambique, Director-General Dr Federico Mayor, said at the end of his visit here recently.

UNESCO's contribution will focus on rehabilitation of the educational system gravely affected by the destruction of school buildings.

From 1981 to 1986, 45 percent of primary schools were destroyed. The figure reaches 77 percent in certain central regions.

UNESCO's proposals will be presented to the Emergency Programme Conference in Maputo next month.

In the meantime, a mission will be sent to Mozambique to determine the form of UNESCO's contribution which, said Dr Mayor, is to be given high priority.

The Emergency Programme, prepared by the Mozambican government in collaboration with the United Nations, was launched on February 27, 1987 by the UN Secretary General, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The priorities identified at the time were food, transport, hydraulic installations, and health. A new appeal at the beginning of this year included the educational system which is in a state of ruin.

♣ Dr de Cuellar on Monday appealed for US\$24,6 million in emergency relief for Angola, which has been ravaged by internal strife and South African military attacks.

He said the funds were needed for logistical support, agriculture, basic health care, drinking water and "relief and survival items".

In Harare, Foreign Affairs Minister, Cde Nathan Shamu-yarira, yesterday said South Africa is still the major stumbling block for peace in Angola despite the remarkable progress made by the American and Angolan negotiating teams.

According to a Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation report, Cde Shamuyarira also said nothing much was achieved at the recent meeting between South Africa's Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Dr Chester Crocker in Geneva. — Ziana-Xinhua-Reuter.