

MNR (Chronicle)
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banditry

decreases:

Minister

HARARE — MNR bandit activities have decreased in parts of Mozambique, the Minister of Defence, Cde Enos Nkala, said here.

The Minister told the June issue of Zimbabwe News magazine, the official organ of ZANU (PF), that the situation had become more peaceful with the recent defeat of bandits in Sotala, Manica and Tete provinces.

"It is now quieter in these three provinces although there are still small pockets of bandits moving about," he said.

More than 30 bandits had been killed in clashes with security forces and large quantities of arms had been captured, he said.

A number of bandits had escaped into Malawi, the Minister said, adding that diplomatic moves might be initiated to discuss this development.

"Their activities have decreased. This strengthens our view that we have beaten them to a point where they know it's not safe to move or openly have contacts with us," he said.

Cde Nkala said 200 bandits had been killed recently at various bases in the Gaza province in joint operations.

"All these bases were used as springboards for subversive activities in the province of south-east Zimbabwe," he said.

The Minister said some MNR bandits had surrendered in Zimbabwe and had been handed over to Mozambique by the Government. — Ziana.