

# MNR bandits on the run

## Herald Reporter

A LARGE number of MNR bandits have surrendered and are being handed over to the Mozambican authorities after their bases were overrun by the Mozambican and Zimbabwean forces a month ago, the Minister of Defence, Cde Enos Nkala, has said.

According to the latest issue of the Zimbabwe News, the official organ of the ruling Zanu (PF), a large number of Mozambican locals who were held hostage were also rescued. "They have since been resettled," Cde Nkala said.

In an interview with the magazine, the minister said the forces attacked three bases at the tip of the Tete province near Malawi killing more than 30 dissidents and capturing large quantities of arms. "After the attack a number of dissidents escaped into Malawi," he said.

Cde Nkala warned that Renamo bandits would be dealt with as long as they were on the Mozambican territory even if it was one inch from the South African border. He added, however, that the situation was getting calmer.

"Renamo bandits were defeated in Sofala, Manica and Tete."

The security forces did not pursue the dissidents when they ran into Malawi because both Zimbabwe and Mozambique respected international borders. They left it to the Malawi government to decide what to do with dissidents who sought sanctuary within Malawi.

"I think diplomatic contacts will be made to see what Malawi can do when dissidents run there and come back to regroup in Mozambique," Cde Nkala said.

Although it was a little quieter in the three provinces overrun by the security forces, the railway and oil pipeline had sometimes been sabotaged.

However, the bandits were few and their activities had decreased. "This strengthens our view that we have beaten them to a point where they know it is not safe to move or openly have contacts with us," the minister said.

On the Limpopo Corridor, large movements of bandits in some areas of Gaza had been seen and recently six bases were overrun by the forces and 200 dissidents killed. The bases some about three kilometres from the South African border, were used as springboards for subversive activities in the province south-east of Zimbabwe.

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