

Maputo forces 'in control'

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MAPUTO.

THE Mozambican Minister of Defence, General Alberto Chipande, declared at the weekend in Maputo that the military situation in Mozambique is under the control of the armed forces (FPLM).

General Chipande made this statement to Radio Mozambique, soon after his return from Quelimane, in Central Zambezia Province, where he met his Zimbabwean and Tanzanian counterparts, Cde Enos Nkala and Cde Salim A. Salim.

General Chipande said the meeting assessed the joint military operations in the Zambezia Val-

ley and defined new joint actions.

He said that the assessment was "positive", adding that it had "frustrated the enemy's objective, which is to divide Mozambique along the Zambezia Valley".

General Chipande said as a result of operations carried out since the beginning of the year in Zambezia, the bandits had been swept out of parts of Morrumbala district and from the various districts of Manica and Tete provinces, in the centre and north-west of Mozambique.

General Chipande said that the next step would be "to involve the northern and southern regions" of Mozambique, because the operations in the Zambezia Valley had driven some bandits into In-

hambane province in the south, while others went north towards Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado provinces.

In spite of this movement, General Chipande described the military situation in the three southern provinces — Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo — as being "under our direction", and said the army was operating "without problems or difficulties".

The Mozambican minister said it was important now "to occupy the liberated land, to put people and government and party structures there in order to rebuild the land destroyed by the armed bandits". — Ziana-AIM-Pana.