

50 bandits kill 17 at Fair

New Nation

14-7-88

ABOUT 50 armed bandits carried out the Saturday midnight massacre at Inhamizua, a suburb of the port city of Beira in Central Mozambique.

According to eyewitnesses, the local inhabitants had organised a Fair and were enjoying themselves when a few men dressed in ragged civilian clothes, but with military-type caps, tried to enter the place without paying.

These men came back with others around midnight, armed and numbering about 50.

They divided into two groups, one of which

placed itself at the entrance of the fair. They immediately opened fire.

Panic set in and people started running in all directions. Fortunately, the fence was made of reed and was easily brought down by the fleeing people, say the eyewitnesses.

HOSPITAL

Twelve people died at the Fair grounds — all of them males aged below 30. Three other men died in hospital and one more died yesterday.

He was among six of the 72 wounded who

were taken to hospital in a critical condition.

Among the wounded there are women and children.

A Beira reporter said the situation in the area was calm now, adding that the Saturday attack had been the first 'MNI' attack near Beira of massacre proportions.

"Previous attacks have included quick incursions to steal, or to kidnap civilians, with the occasional murder."

Inhamizua is located in the outskirts of Beira, some 12km from the centre of the city.

None of the attackers has yet been caught.