

PLEDGE TO MAKE BORDER AREAS SAFE

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Post Editor

SECURITY FORCES in Chipinge patrolling the border with Mozambique will step up their operations to ensure that Zimbabweans in the area are not harassed by South African-backed MNR bandits.

The pledge was made this week by Chief Inspector Cassian Maveneka, the officer in charge ZRP, Chipinge, when members of the Press based in Mutare were shown decomposing bodies of two MNR bandits shot

dead during a contact with Zimbabwean security forces in the Madhlayani area in Musikavanhu communal lands in the Eastern districts last Saturday.

An AK rifle and four AK magazines were recovered at the scene of the contact.

Cde Maveneka said over the past month, MNR bandits had crossed into Zimbabwe to loot, kill innocent Zimbabwean villagers and burn down villages as part of their terror campaign.

Patrols were stepped up and last Saturday, security forces came across a group of five MNR bandits. In the ensuing shoot-out, the two bandits were killed while the rest fled.

Follow-up operations are in progress, said Cde Maveneka.

He called on the people to co-operate with security forces to ensure that MNR bandits did not infiltrate the area.

"When people come across strangers acting suspiciously, they must immediately inform our security forces so the situation can be dealt with on the spot," he said.

Meanwhile, the Chipinge District Administrator, Cde Christopher Chingosho, has said that 34 squatter families at a farm in the district have been served with eviction notices.

"The removal of these people will help the security situation — since they will be moved to areas set aside for resettlement. It is not easy to

distinguish a genuine displaced Mozambican from an MNR bandit hence the need for some of these people to be moved to legalised settlements where their movements can be monitored by the authorities," said Cde Chingosho.

"I am warning all squatters to move to legal settlement areas so as to help improve the security situation."

He cited Wattle Company Farm as one of the areas that had an influx of squatters.

"Hardly a month passes without new structures going up," he said.