

'Mataveya robbed store'

Court Reporter H 14/10/84

A STATE witness in the High Court trial of an alleged MNR bandit, John Mataveya, yesterday said that he had identified Mataveya as the armed man during a robbery at a store in Chipinge.

Mataveya (22), of Mozambique, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of murder, three of armed robbery, one of attempted murder and one of possession of arms of war.

On the evening of May 13 last year, an armed man had robbed a storekeeper at Clearance Water Estate in Chipinge at gunpoint. The storekeeper gave the armed man money, blankets, clothes and other goods.

The witness, Cde Caleb Mapanda, who was in the company of the storekeeper at the time of the robbery, told the court that he

had managed to identify Mataveya as the armed man as there was candlelight in the store.

Cde Mapanda said that Mataveya had approached the candle while the goods were being taken from the store. At the identification parade, Cde Mapanda picked Mataveya.

Mr Bruno Mugabe, for Mataveya, put it to the witness that the man he had picked at the identification parade was not the same man he saw on the evening of May 13 last year.

"He is the one," Cde Mapanda replied.

However, another witness, the storekeeper, yesterday said that during the robbery, visibility was poor and that there was no candle in the store.

The hearing continues today.