

'Mataveya tried to escape'

H Court Reporter ^{18/10}₈₈
THE alleged MNR bandit,
John Mataveya, attempt-
ed to escape while in

handcuffs when police officers recovered a gun said to have been used by him during the armed robberies in the Chipinge area, the High Court in Harare heard yesterday.

One of the police officers who arrested Mataveya (22), of Mozambique, at the Watershed Coffee Estate, told the court that the suspected armed robber fled after the officers had recovered the gun.

Mataveya had led the officers to the spot to recover some of the clothes that had been stolen from Davora Store in May last year. Mataveya has pleaded not guilty to two counts of murder, one of attempted murder, three of armed robbery, and one of possession of arms of war.

Clothes and cash were recovered from the house of Mataveya's brother after he had been found in possession of mbanje. Mataveya then led the police details to a place where he claimed to have hidden the goods stolen from the store. Instead of recovering the goods, an AK rifle was found.

Asked by Mr Bruno Mugabe, for Mataveya, whether the alleged bandit had admitted having participated in the armed robbery at the store, the police constable said that Mataveya had made no confession as to the robbery but had offered to lead them to the spot where some of the goods had been hidden.

"I put it to you that when you arrested Mataveya he told you that he had participated in the armed robbery and that the clothes you recovered belonged to one of his colleagues," Mr Mugabe said.

The arresting officer said that they had only come to know that Mataveya had been part of the robbery when they recovered the gun during a search at the plantation.

Mataveya was arrested on May 14 last year.

The hearing continues today.