

Minister slams MPs over MNR stance ^H 1/3/69

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cde Nathan Shamuyarira, yesterday criticised MPs who urged the Government to encourage the Mozambique government to hold talks with MNR bandits.

He appealed to MPs to refrain from making state-

ments such as those made in the Assembly in January by MPs Cde Micah Bhebhe, Cde Naison Ndhlovu and Cde Sydney Malunga, which were referred to yesterday by Mutare Urban MP Edgar Tekere.

"I appeal to members of this House to refrain from making statements on foreign policy which embarrass the Government," he said.

Many people outside Zimbabwe were unaware of the democratic procedures that existed in Zimbabwe and took speeches by parliamentarians to be a reflection of Government policy.

The MPs' statements on the MNR had been broadcast by Malawi, for instance, as being the views of the Zimbabwe Government, he said, necessitating a statement correcting this from the High Commissioner in Malawi.

He said the talks which had led to unity in Zimbabwe between Zanu (PF) and PF-Zapu and the talks between Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States, which these MPs had held up as an example to Mozambique were completely different to the situation which existed in Mozambique.

Zimbabwe's position was that whether or not the Mozambique government decided to hold talks with the MNR was an internal affair of Mozambique.

Zimbabwe respected the Mozambican government's view that the MNR was a South African-backed group with no alternative political philosophy or programme.

Zimbabwe also supported the Mozambican view that any talks over MNR should be with South Africa.

Later the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Cde Emmerson

Mnangagwa, said Zimbabwe had been placed in an embarrassing position at the United Nations and Organisation of African Unity as a result of the MPs' comments on Mozambique.

"If these (MPs) are friends of Renamo, which I suspect they are, this country refuses to be dragged into the question of becoming arbiters in the internal affairs of Mozambique. Mozambique has never interfered in the internal affairs of this country," he said.

● Rumbblings about corruption are destabilising, Deputy Minister of Mines, Cde Charles Duke, said yesterday.

Speaking during debate on the President's State of the Nation Address, he said he wanted to see the Press reflecting the views of ordinary people and added: "But stable countries throughout the world demand the loyalty of the local Press."

He called on all loyal Zimbabweans to support their President, who, he said, was a man of stature among world politicians. — Ziana.