

[17]

Zimbabwe: 22 reported killed and 1.3m litres of fuel lost because of Mozambican rebel attacks (Text)

Harare, 1st February: Zimbabwe lost almost 1.3m litres of petrol and diesel following three separate attacks of the Beira-Mutare pipeline by MNR bandits in the middle of last month, according to the Southern African Research and

Documentation Centre (SARDC). "This brought Zimbabwe's fuel losses for the new year to 47% of the total 1989 sabotage losses of 2,628m litres," the centre said in a report released in Harare on Thursday [1st February] ZIANA, Zimbabwe's news agency, reports. The attacks took place between 13th and 16th January, "repairs were completed and pumping resumed within hours after each of the incidents, with little disruption of fuel, flow, despite the spillage", said the report.

According to SARDC, the recent incidents brought to 35 the number of sabotage attacks on the pipeline since the beginning of last year. The pipeline is owned by Lonhro, the largest foreign investor in Mozambique. The Harare-based SARDC also said that between 1st December last year and 11th January this year six attacks were made on rail and road links to Beira, in which two people died and one was injured.

"Recorded cross-border attacks by the MNR into Zimbabwe from November to January inclusive totalled 33. In these attacks 22 Zimbabweans were murdered, all but two of them civilians. A further 25 were wounded, eight abducted and a large quantity of goods stolen from Zimbabwean villagers and stores", said the report. (SAPA in English 1805 gmt 1 Feb 90)