

Christian body denies MNR links

H. 900828

Herald Reporter

A LOCAL welfare Christian organisation, Childcare Ministries, has denied allegations that one of its overseas donors, Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, supports MNR bandits in Mozambique.

Childcare Ministries Southern Africa director, Mr David van Rensburg, said in a Press statement in Harare yesterday that the allegations had no basis of fact.

Childcare Ministries has provided food, clothing, medicine and tents to Mozambican refugees at four camps in Zimbabwe during the past four years.

It has also supplied relief materials to displaced Mozambicans in Zambia, Swaziland and within Mozambique itself. With financial support from North America, the organisation imports Canadian wheat which it exchanges for Zimbabwean maize for distribution to the displaced people.

This year's contract with the Grain Marketing Board amounted to \$3 million worth of maize, three-quarters of which

would be ground locally into mealie-meal before distribution.

There were Press reports last year which alleged that Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and another evangelical organisation, Shekina Ministries, sympathised with the bandits.

"All (that) these rumours do is just make it more difficult for us to raise the financial support we so desperately need," Mr Van Rensburg said.

Since its involvement in the Mozambican refugee relief operation about five years ago, Childcare Ministries has also established a mobile medical aid unit based in Chipinge and working under the supervision of the Chipinge District Hospital. It treats up to 100 people a day free of charge.

"We as Christians, not just in this organisation but as Christians throughout the world, are obligated by God, in fact it is a command from God, that we help our brothers in need," Mr Van Rensburg said.