

SECURITY ON MOZAMBICAN BORDER STEPPED UP

THE Government has deployed additional security forces along the border with Mozambique following the killing by MNR bandits of 81 Zimbabweans and injuring of 79 others since January, President Mugabe said in Harare

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It had early this year joined Namibians in their celebration of independence, which had brought prospects for peace in the region much closer.

Within the Frontline States and OAU fora, Zimbabwe had made unrelenting

yesterday:

The bandits had abducted a further 79 people and were also responsible for 59 acts of robbery and 13 of arson, said Cde Mugabe in his third State of the Nation address before Parliament.

"In addition, Renamo has sporadically disrupted our trade routes in Mozambique during the year."

The Government was concerned that people living in areas vulnerable to bandit attacks had to be adequately protected.

"Appropriate steps have therefore been taken in that regard, including the deployment of additional security forces to the affected areas."

Cde Mugabe was confident that there were signs that peace might soon come to Mozambique and, possibly, to the region as a whole, probably resulting in an end to cross-border incursions and destabilisation activities.

Zimbabwe, he said, had made and continued to make positive contributions towards bringing about peace and stability not only in the region and the African continent, but the world as a whole.

calls for the peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Angola and Mozambique, unreservedly declaring support for the peace initiatives undertaken by both countries.

While reforms resulting in several rounds of "talks about talks" in South Africa were "encouraging", Zimbabwe continued to maintain cautious optimism as the apartheid system remained intact.

On the world stage, Cde Mugabe said the Iraqi invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait had shattered a peaceful atmosphere the international community had just started to enjoy.

"We shall continue to support decisions of the United Nations aimed at resolving the conflict."

Noting Zimbabwe's election to serve in the United Nations Security Council, having assumed a similar responsibility in 1983, Cde Mugabe said the country's voice would endeavour to advance the cause of Africa, while upholding the principles of the UN Charter.