

MOZAMBIQUE: Black market in Zambezia ION (331) 7/5/88 p.8

Nearly 50 per cent of the agricultural produce put on the market in Zambezia province is reported to be diverted from the official trade outlets and resold at high prices by speculators in the towns and cities. The situation is attributed to the difficulties of communication between the state-owned marketing company *AGRICOM* and its rural offices, as well as the long delay in the supply of consumer goods to farmers in compensation for their harvests.

This year Zambezia, where the *Renamo* rebels had been in strength for years and have now been thrown back, put 2,420 tonnes of produce on the market, chiefly copra and cashew nuts, as against 80,000 tonnes in 1981.

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