

Saboteurs blast Beira power and water supply

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WATER and electricity supplies to Mozambique's second largest city, Beira, were cut off by saboteurs at the weekend, according to Radio Mozambique which blamed "Mozambican puppets" paid by Rhodesia to create civil disorder.

Experts sent from Maputo reconnected the services at Chicamba Real, near Vila de Manica, 120 km from Beira and only a few kilometres from the Rhodesian border.

Angered by increasing sabotage, Frelimo decided at the weekend to mobilise a national militia of workers and peasants in Gaza, Tete and Manica — provinces bordering Rhodesia.

These provinces are now under military control with soldiers ready to start training the home guard. Mozambican security police are also involved in the anti-guerrilla operations.

The first Beira black-out lasted 12 hours. Soon after repairs were completed, saboteurs plunged the city into darkness again, halting all production.

Urban guerrillas hit the city's water supply simultaneously, blowing up a hydro-electric station and a water pipeline.

Radio Mozambique reported that between January 8 and 15 Rhodesia mounted seven attacks inside Mozambique.

The targets were army barracks and civilian targets such as trains and buses, according to the official report.

Usually Rhodesian attacks over the border are aimed at alleged guerrilla base camps of Zanla, the military wing of the Zimbabwe African National Union.

Many roads in the three provinces were dangerous because of landmines, the communiqué said. Some insurgents wore Frelimo uniforms and carried Mozambique Army weapons.

Yesterday reporters were shown radios, rifles, mortars, ammunition and landmines captured by Frelimo forces after a Rhodesian attack on Mapal, the radio said.

Maputo Province governor Jose Alberto Motane told a crowd of 100 000 in Maputo on Sunday that the sabotage was the work of Mozambican agents paid by Rhodesia, which was determined to stop the country's socialist movement.

Although not mentioned by the radio, an anti-Frelimo guerrilla organisation based in Rhodesia, the National Resistance Movement, is known to be operating in the three border provinces.

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