

MNR bases fall, 177 bandits killed

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HARARE — Three MNR bases — one of them a regional headquarters — were destroyed last week in a joint operation by Zimbabwean and Mozambican forces in Mozambique's Gaza province and 177 MNR bandits were killed.

Two other bandits, one believed to be a close aide to bandit commander Gomez who narrowly escaped, were captured, the Ministry of Defence announced in a statement last night.

The bases in Gaza, which borders on the south-east of Zimbabwe had been set up with the aim of disrupting the rehabilitation programme along the Chicualacuala-Maputo railway line. They

were also used, said the Ministry statement, as launching pads for attacks across the border into Zimbabwe where bandits have committed atrocities.

The joint operation ran from March 18 to Wednesday last week and was conducted in the Mabalane area of Gaza.

Large quantities of equipment were also destroyed or captured, said the statement.

— Own Corf.