

Cowardly boast

THE bandit MNR rebels, in the belief that there now is an exploitable vacuum in Mozambique created by the death of President Samora Machel, have been promising to intensify their activities against that grieving country.

Their pathetic judgment of the situation is demonstrated by their statements reacting to Cde Machel's death. One of their spokesmen, speaking from Lisbon of course, said now that President Machel was dead they would find little difficulty in achieving their goal of replacing the Frelimo government.

What they have not taken into consideration is the will of the people of Mozambique themselves.

Their wish to fight for their revolutionary gains, and their determination never to give up their very freedom to proxies of Portuguese multi-millionaires and South African militarists, clearly escapes the small minds of the MNR.

Then there are our own permanent interests in Mozambique which would be dangerously jeopardised by an MNR takeover. South Africa would then have effectively almost entirely encircled this country.

Last week the Prime Minister highlighted the dangers of an MNR takeover and vowed that Zimbabwe was prepared to fight to the last man to prevent the MNR taking over in Mozambique. In response the MNR has "formally" declared war on Zimbabwe.

How they intend fighting us when they come out second in every engagement with our forces in Mozambique remains to be seen. All they may really manage are cowardly sabotage missions with the aid of South Africa, the aim of which would be to destabilise the country and create anxiety within the population.

The bandits cannot stand against our forces in Mozambique. If they appear to be making headway in any clash with Zimbabwean soldiers it is only because their spokesmen in Lisbon are doing such a good job of churning out false statements that are not worth the paper they are printed on.

We are quite aware of the possible massive resources that could be available to the MNR simply because of their "anti-communist" label. But if Mozambique is where every able-bodied Zimbabwean is going to die in defence of that country's and our own sovereignty, then so be it.

We see South Africa's hand in the MNR's declarations. These are a form of pressure from the boers who have suddenly and unashamedly decided to assign themselves the duty of bringing together the MNR and the Frelimo government, just as President Machel was being buried.

The determination of the people of Mozambique and that of ourselves did not die with Samora. He would have wanted us to fight until victory. And that is exactly what we are going to do.