

THE STAR

Guerillas claim Frelimo losses

LISBON — Anti-marxist guerillas in Mozambique said at the weekend they had killed more than 40 government soldiers and shot down an air force spotter plane in operations during the last two months.

A statement by the Mozambique National Resistance (RNM), released in Lisbon, said its guerillas had beaten off attacks by the Marxist Government forces on their bases in central Mozambique.

At least 44 members of Frelimo's armed forces were killed by the RNM during operations in September and October, it added.

Government air and ground forces launched a major offensive against the RNM last June, capturing a major guerilla base near Espungabera on the Zimbabwe border.

The RNM statement referred for the first time to attacks on guerilla bases near the River Save about 150 km to the south and near Chimoio, a strategic crossroads city on the rail line from Beira to Zimbabwe.

The RNM listed offensive operations which included an attack on a train on the international ralling on September 29 and several ambushes of military vehicles.

The guerilla movement said it killed 10 government soldiers in an encounter near the River Save on the same day. It gave no details of its own losses.—Sapa-Reuter.