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'Bandits working H. with $\frac{2}{3}$ MNR' $\frac{1}{83}$

Herald Reporter
ZIMBABWEAN dissidents are known to be co-operating with the so-called Mozambique National Resistance, the Governor of Mozambique's Manica Province, Cde Manuel Antonio, said in Chimoio at the weekend.

"Sithole's men are among the bandits and some Zipra. They appear in Mozambique and they have been instructed."

He said that development in the province had been badly affected by MNR activities but that the situation would certainly improve in 1983.

"Today we are prepared to face the banditry. All the population is receiving military training to crush the enemy.

"Those who train the dissidents know very well that if Mozambique is free of war it will grow very rapidly.

"They also know that if Mozambique enjoys that freedom it will be a very good base for South Africans to fight against apartheid. So they create a climate of destabilisation and insecurity."

The Governor said that Manica's 600 kilometres of border with Zimbabwe and the bush terrain made infiltration easy for the dissidents. They were also able to find refuge in Zimbabwe.

Asked if there was any local support for the dissidents, Cde Antonio said there was "certain support" but that mainly they live in places where there is no population and receive material support from South Africa.

"The bandits don't accept socialism. But does someone who claims to want to liberate this country cut off the ears of the povo, and steal the clothes of the povo?"

"The population sees that these people don't want to free them but to plunder and massacre. They have no place to stay in this province."