

Catalogue of destruction

AN IDEA of the devastation caused by the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MRN) over the years was given by Mozambique's President Samora Machel in a speech on April 5.

He said 840 schools had been destroyed or closed, affecting more than 150 000 schoolchildren. Twelve health centres, 24 maternity clinics, 174 health posts and two centres for the physically handicapped had been pillaged.

A total of 900 shops had been destroyed, thus hampering sales and supplies for about 4.5-million people.

Considerable numbers of people — from peasants and lorry drivers to nuns, teachers and journalists — had been kidnapped or killed.

Also kidnapped were 52 technicians from countries such as Brazil, Bulgaria, Britain and the Soviet Union. Six Portuguese, four Russians and two East Germans have been murdered.

"Men and women have been permanently mutilated and maimed. Our people had their property looted, their houses destroyed, their granaries raided, their crops pillaged and flattened, their cattle stolen and killed, their tools burnt and destroyed."

President Machel also referred to "the systematic destruction of economic infrastructures, bridges and roads, shops and warehouses, sawmills, plantations, agricultural and industrial machinery, electricity supply lines, petrol tanks, lorries and buses, locomotives and carriages..."