

War against MNR to be stepped up says Chissano

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MOZAMBICAN President Joaquim Chissano declared in Maputo on Tuesday that his country will intensify efforts this year to wipe out MNR banditry.

Speaking at the end of year reception for party and state cadres, Cde Chissano cautioned that the secret of success on both the military and economic front lies in unity and "our ability to organise and mobilise the people around the major goals that we have defined".

This year, he warned, will be another year of war and economic difficulties for Mozambique. But, the year should also be regarded as one "of hope and of certitude", he added.

The President said the economic measures to be taken "perhaps harsh, but necessary, will lay down the conditions for the recovery of our economy and for the building of a better future for our people".

Cde Chissano said despite Cde Samora Machel's untimely death, and increased aggression against Mozambique, some important victories had been won last year.

In another incident, three white mercenaries, two of them apparently South Africans, led the attack by MNR on Ulenque in the north-western province of Tete on November 8, eye-witnesses said.

Cde Faustino Magegula, meanwhile said the MNR attacked in three groups, each commanded by a white mercenary.

MAPUTO

Despite the mercenaries aiding MNR, the Mozambican army overran 33 camps and hideouts of the bandits in the southern province of Maputo between May 1 and December 28, last year.

According to a communique issued by the Maputo provincial military command on Tuesday, one of the bases at Macaene in Magude district, about 180 km north-west of the capital, was a supply route for MNR bands elsewhere in the province.

Macandzene in Manhica district, some 80 km north of Maputo, was used by MNR gangs for ambushing convoys on the main north-south road in the Pateque/Maluane region.

Two other MNR bases — Muhologolo and Movene — are in Namaacha district, west of Maputo.

The communique said the armed forces killed 457 bandits in the clashes in Maputo province over the past eight months.

There is now "a climate of tranquillity and security", in the province, the communique said. — Ziana-Aim-Pana.