

# 1987 is doom year for MNR: Chissano

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## MAPUTO

SOUTH Africa's MNR bandits "are doomed to failure", declared Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano.

Speaking at a New Year's reception offered to the diplomatic corps, he said that the bandits were "doomed to be eliminated so that the suffering of our country and of the region may also be eliminated".

Cde Chissano was making an improvised reply, in English, to a speech given by the dean of the diplomatic corps, Swaziland's ambassador — Christian Masuku. Mr Masuku had evoked the suffering caused by the MNR. At first, he said, he had thought the stories of MNR atrocities were "exaggerated", but now he had come to realise that they were true and that "the problem this country faces is one thing only — the bandits".

"Your words have inspired me to say that 1987 is the year of the doom of the bandits," said Cde Chissano. "This will be realised with the support of the whole of the international community which has realised, as you say, that there is no exaggeration.

"The people of Southern Africa are suffering and that suffering must come to an end."

Switching to his prepared speech in Portuguese, Cde Chissano de-

nounced the South African government as being "responsible for regional destabilisation through terrorism, armed banditry, direct aggression and the occupation of territories by force".

South Africa had infiltrated "thousands of bandits and mercenaries" into Mozambique, he said. "This infiltration is now taking on the proportions of a real invasion, causing our country to spend enormous sums on defence.

"We are convinced," he said, "that peace in Southern Africa must necessarily involve the elimination of the apartheid system, and the implementation of democracy throughout South Africa and for all South Africans."

In Dar es Salaam, the ruling party chairman Julius Nyerere says assistance to Mozambique is now Tanzania's top priority, the official Shihata news agency reported.

Cde Nyerere said from now on people should contribute liberally for Mozambicans who are battling South African-backed bandits, he was

quoted as saying during a tour of areas bordering Mozambique.

"It is important for countries like Tanzania which support the armed struggle to strengthen their defences and be on the alert against any boer machinations." — Ziana-AIM-Reuters.