



# MNR bandits lose

**THE combined Zimbabwean and Mozambican defence forces have made yet another big success over the South African-backed MNR bandits in Mozambique.**

The gallant forces have completely overrun the bandits' stronghold and recaptured five towns. The MNR bandits have been known to have been concentrating in the Zambezia and Tete provinces — which lie north of the Zambezi on each side of the spur of southern Malawi.

Late last year a number of administrative centres were overrun by heavily armed MNR bandits in the MNR-held northern bank of the Zambezi River. This included the bridge over the Zambezi linking the towns of Sena and Dona.

The bandits have been responsible for the death of nearly 300 000 children. The operation by our forces shows that they are on top of the situation.

The aim of the bandits was to cut Mozambique in two and set up some sort of administration north of the Zambezi and intensify their attacks on the Beira Corridor.

Zimbabwe salutes the four members of the Air Force who were tragically killed while delivering food supplies to our forces in Mozambique.

The Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, has warned time and again that if the Frelimo government in Mozambique was defeated by the anti-revolutionary forces Zimbabwe would be the next target for those forces. Zimbabwe will not allow these South African-backed bandits to take power in Mozambique.

President Joaquim Chissano has also underscored the Prime Minister's sentiments by declaring that 1987 is the year of doom for the bandits.

Pretoria has infiltrated thousands of bandits and mercenaries into Mozambique causing that country to spend enormous sums on defence. The downfall of Frelimo which South Africa is seeking would herald an era of the conquest of Africa by the forces of neo-colonialism.

Apart from our firm and commendable military commitment to the defence and sovereignty of Mozambique, there is still plenty of local capacity which should be mobilised for help in other areas of need.

There is the Mozambican Fund through which all of us can make a direct contribution to the struggle in Mozambique.

The Zimbabwean public's moral support of the army inspires the soldiers. By donating to the fund the soldiers feel that their task is being appreciated by the nation and that makes them work harder to successfully complete their assignment.

To defend the Frelimo administration in Mozambique is to defend our survival.

The struggle against Pretoria from an international perspective can be successfully prosecuted only in conjunction with a policy of active support for Mozambique under Frelimo to defeat the bandits.

Such policy would represent a fitting and legitimate counter-measure to Pretoria's strategy in Southern Africa which aims at weakening the Frontline States.