

MNR attack peasants to cripple Maputo economy

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Herald Reporter

THE South African-backed MNR are turning away from direct military confrontation and have resorted to harassing the Mozambican masses to cripple that country's economy.

The deputy secretary for the Zimbabwe-Mozambique Friendship Association (Zimofa), Cde Milke Nesangano, who recently returned from Mozambique told The Herald yesterday. "For one to understand the situation in Mozambique, one also has to understand the stance of the South African government which ended up in the death of Cde Samora Machel."

The racist Pretoria regime had realised that it could not shake the Mozambican government through banditry activities of the MNR and had

changed tactics to use the bandit movement to destabilise the economy of that country.

Cde Nesangano, who met Central Committee member Cde Jose Luis Cabaco and other top Frelimo officials, said by harassing the masses, the MNR was striving to demoralise the people and because of the drought situation, intended to cause starvation.

"However, the Mozambican people know that they are victims of imperialistic machinations and are steadfast against the South African destabilisation policy."

He called on Zimbabweans not to forget that during the liberation struggle Mozambican workers had contributed every month towards a solidarity bank for the Zimbabwe armed struggle while the peasants gave

food.

"It is these very people (Mozambicans) whom we are trying to feed and clothe because they are displaced . . . we are morally obliged to do the same for them as they did for us during our own liberation struggle."

Since 1980, of Mozambique's 14 million people, four million had been displaced by bandit activity, while 400 000 died, half of them children.

A further 300 000 children had been stopped from going to school through the bandit activities of the MNR, said Cde Nesangano.

He said the war had cost Mozambique billions of dollars in destroyed property and it was imperative that the Zimbabwean people help their long-standing allies.

Opportunists had jumped on the Zimofa "bandwagon", and local people should be wary of persons who purported to be collecting donations in the name of the friendship association.

Cde Nesangano urged Zimbabweans to give any help they could to the Mozambican brothers and sisters through Zimofa, Zanu (PF) or the Government, to defeat opportunists who were bent on exploiting the masses.

"Zimbabweans should never forget that the cadres of Frelimo fought along us for our liberation; hence the need to strengthen the solidarity between the two peoples."

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