

# Joint offensive wipes out 2 200 MNR bandits

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A JOINT offensive by Mozambican, Zimbabwean and Tanzanian forces has wiped out more than 2 200 terrorists of the South African-backed bandit gangs in a major military offensive in four central provinces of Mozambique.

A communique from the general staff of the Mozambican armed forces (FAM) said that the military offensive took place in Zambezia, Tete, Sofala and Manica provinces from December to March.

In December and January 15 bandit camps were overrun in Zambezia province, 113 bandits were killed and six captured. In February the army cleaned up the Zambezia localities of Micaone, Namaroi and Derre, when 860 bandits were killed and three camps taken.

Fighting continued in the same area and in Luabo district in March. Nine more camps were destroyed and 1 027 bandits were killed, the communique said.

An extensive road network had been re-opened to traffic, the communique

continued, and large quantities of goods stolen from the people in Zambezia province had been recovered.

Tanzanian military units were securing the areas re-taken by the Mozambican army in Zambezia province, the communique said, and mopping up operations were continuing.

Joint operations were carried out by the Mozambican and Zimbabwean armies in January and February in the northern districts of Sofala province south of the Zambezi River and in Mutarara district of neighbouring Tete province, and Tambara district in Manica province.

The communique said that 15 camps were destroyed and 300 bandits killed. Eleven bandits were captured. — ZIANA-ATM.