

MNR murder 11 in Rushinga

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Herald Reporter

A GANG of Mozambique National Resistance bandits shot and killed 11 Zimbabwean civilians in the Rushinga area of Mount Darwin on Saturday night, the Minister of State (Defence), Cde Ernest Kadungure, said yesterday.

In a statement released last night Cde Kadungure said that on the night of June 20, a gang of armed bandits attacked a shopping centre near Marymount Mission in the north-east of Zimbabwe.

"It is believed that the gang intended to loot for food and clothing. Owing to the vigilance of the local people, the bandits withdrew towards the Mozambique border and on their way burnt four communal huts housing two families of 11," said the statement.

Nine members of the families were shot and killed as they ran away from the burning huts. Two were shot but managed to escape. One of them died later in hospital.

At the next village, said Cde Kadungure, the bandits shot and killed an

old man before retreating to Mozambique.

Zimbabwean security forces later caught one member of the gang.

All efforts will be made to track down "these merciless murderers", said Cde Kadungure.

Ziana said the MNR gang were 50-strong and heavily armed. According to the news agency, the bandits bayoneted a 13-year-old girl. She is recovering in hospital.

The 11 victims were shot in the Kagodora area near Marymount Mission, about 80 km on the north-eastern border with Mozambique. Cde Kadungure reportedly visited the area accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations), Cde Godwin Mabika, and senior army officers on Monday afternoon.

The dead were named as Denny Machisa (35), his wife Eunice (30), their three-year-old baby (unnamed), Sekai Machisa (15), Teki Chihoto (55), Ramion Tembo (36), his wife Sebila (30) and their four children aged between two and nine, not yet named.